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PART XXXVI.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

April 1879.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

Part XXXVI.

No. 1.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 1.)

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March* 31, 1879.

I AM to see the Emperor to-morrow. It is probable he will again demur to Turks being located at Ichtiman, or in the Balkans, on the ground of chances of collision if they are allowed to traverse the country just yet—a matter about which he seems to be morbidly, but sincerely, nervous. It might be well if I were authorized to say something to him on this point of a reassuring character. You mention western frontier; I imagine a spot could be found, at all events, on the south-western frontier, to which he could not object.

I have been trying to learn the views of this Government as to the practical working of the occupation scheme, the stations of the several contingents, &c., but they have not yet matured their ideas. They will probably propose that each contingent should control a separate rayon.

Hitherto I have treated their objections to Ichtiman as untenable.

No. 2.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 1, 12·30 P.M.)

(No. 54.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 1, 1879.

I HAVE been asked by Count Andrassy whether it was true (as he had been told, I believe, by Novikoff) that the Russian Government had agreed that Turkey should furnish a contingent for the mixed occupation by an arrangement which Her Majesty's Government considered satisfactory.

No. 3.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 1.)

(No. 278.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 1, 1879.

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs said yesterday that Russia's opposition to Rustem Pasha was unabated, but that he had reason to believe that if the Porte named another Ottoman functionary he would be accepted. He observed that as Rustem Pasha had such uncontrollable dislike to going, a change would probably be

necessary. His Excellency said that he thought Aleko Pasha Vogorides might be acceptable to all the Powers and to Eastern Roumelia; he could rely upon his fidelity to the Sultan.

No. 4.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 1.)

(No. 279.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 1, 1879.

WHEN I went to the Sultan yesterday, His Majesty was presiding at the Commission for the examination of articles and gold and silver to be converted into coin. His Majesty refuses to allow any to be sold.

I afterwards saw the Grand Vizier, who told me that by borrowing money from the Galata bankers at ruinous interest there would be wherewith to get on for ten or fifteen days at most; that then a break-up must come, unless the loan negotiations were announced as successful.

Colonel Biddulph thinks that the proposal for [capitalization] must come from the Turks, and he consented to by us. I dread their natural slowness. Their Cyprus Commission is not yet named.

No. 5.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 1.)

(No. 280.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 1, 1879.

FOLLOWING sent to Rome:—

The Sultan, hearing of the Queen's journey to Italy, sends a letter on this occasion of the approach of Her Majesty to his dominions. The letter will be conveyed by Hobart Pasha and Rustem Pasha. The Sultan desired to send his son to visit Her Majesty at the same time, but as the little Prince could not go without a large suite, I ventured to represent strict incognito of Her Majesty, and His Majesty has abandoned the intention.

No. 6.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 1.)

(No. 281.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 1, 1879.

SULTAN assured me yesterday that by Wednesday evening the foreign questions which are before the Porte, i.e., those relating to Eastern Roumelia, Austria, and Greece, would have been settled, and that Europe would be informed of what the Porte could do and what it could not do.

No. 7.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 1.)

(No. 283.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 1, 1879.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, I communicated a précis of Mr. Sandwith's No. 16 of the 15th February to the Porte on the 3rd ultimo, and Minister for Foreign Affairs said he would request that the affair should be settled according to the terms of the engagement made.;

No. 8.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 1.)

(No. 284.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 1, 1879.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs has sent me a copy of a Circular on the mixed occupation, which is not in accordance with his language to me of yesterday, as it suggests that, to avoid the possibilitiy of the inconveniences of mixed occupation, the Commission should continue for a year, and that it should assist the Vali by deliberations decided by the majority principle. That the Ottoman forces ought to occupy Bourgas, a point near Ichtiman, and others easily accessible, leaving the Balkans to be occupied by degrees. Porte would not insist on the presence of the Vali, but would consent to nominate a Lieutenant-Governor, with regard to whom an understanding might be come to, and who should govern during prolongation of the powers of the Commission. Porte concludes by saying that such an arrangement would not diminish the moral effect of the measure proposed by the Powers, while it would preserve them from the sacrifices and embarrassments which that measure might entail.

My report of what the Minister said to me yesterday was correct. French Ambassador afterwards induced the Porte to change the decision. I believe it to be merely a delay. Porte will not hold out if the Powers continue to insist.

No. 9.

Mr. Lascelles to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 1.)

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cairo, April* 1, 1879.

CONSIDERABLE agitation exists here. Meetings have been held at the house of Sheik El Bekri with the Notables and Ulemas, with a view to stir up religious feeling against the European Ministers. Riaz Pasha has been denounced in the Mosque as a friend to the Christians. It is impossible to say how far Khedive is at the bottom of this, but he is in constant communication with the Sheik El Bekri, and there can be no doubt he is doing all in his power to discredit the new régime, and there is danger of Riaz Pasha being forced to resign; he has been informed by the Prefect of Police that his life is in danger.

No. 10.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 1, 1879.

IN reply to your telegram No. 26 of yesterday, we approve your note to Prince Gortchacow. I will inform Porte when I receive the two notes.

My telegrams to you will in future be numbered.

No. 11.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 1, 1879, 1:35 P.M.

NOW that it seems most probable that the Porte will accept, point out to Russian Government that mixed occupation cannot possibly take place till Governor is appointed, and that as Her Majesty's Government have exerted themselves to bring Turkey round to Russian views, Russia should accept Rustem Pasha.

No. 12.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 1, 1879.

HER Majesty's Government approve entirely the language reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 50 of the 24th ultimo.

No. 13.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 1, 1879.

IN reply to your telegram No. 275 of yesterday, your language to Sultan respecting Austrian Convention is entirely approved.

My telegrams to you will in future be numbered.

No. 14.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 1, 1879.

WE have stated to the Russian Government that we consider the presence of a Turkish contingent in the province essential, but that we do not insist on its being stationed in the interior. Russians apparently do not object to Bourgas, but do object to Ichtiman. Beyond informal communications on these points nothing has passed. What the Turkish view is we do not yet know.

No. 15.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 131.) *Foreign Office, April* 1, 1879.

Sir,

YOUR Excellency will have learnt from my telegram No. 1 of this day's date that I approve your having addressed a note to Prince Gortchacow at his request, as reported in your telegram No. 26 of the 31st ultimo, conveying to him the assurance of Her Majesty's Government that it is their intention to hold the Porte to the fulfilment of its engagement to respect the constitution of Eastern Roumelia. As soon as I shall have received from your Excellency copies of that note and of Prince Gortchacow's reply thereto, I will inform the Porte of their tenor.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 16.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 133.) *Foreign Office, April* 1, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE instructed your Excellency in a telegram marked No. 3 of this day's date to point out to Prince Gortchacow that it now seems most probable that the Porte will accept the proposal of Russia for a mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia on the evacuation of the province by her troops, and that this measure cannot possibly be carried out until a Governor has been appointed. I have therefore requested your Excellency to represent to Prince Gortchacow that, as Her Majesty's Government have used their utmost exertions to persuade the Porte to meet the views of Russia with regard to the question of the mixed occupation, the Russian Government should no longer refuse to agree to the appointment of Rustem Pasha as Governor of the province.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 17.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 135. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April* 1, 1879.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 50, Confidential, of the 24th ultimo, reporting the substance of a conversation you have had with M. de Giers on the subject of the occupation of Eastern Roumelia by a mixed force on the withdrawal of the Russian troops.

I have already informed your Excellency by telegraph that your language on this occasion has the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 18.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 456.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 1, 1879.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 275 of yesterday's date, reporting the representations you had made to the Sultan on the subject of the Convention under negotiation with Austria for a joint occupation of Novi-Bazar.

I entirely approve the advice given by you to His Majesty, and I have learned with satisfaction that it has not been without effect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 19.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 204.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 1, 1879.

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram of to-day (No. 54), in which you state that Count Andrassy had heard that the Russian Government had consented to the presence of a Turkish contingent among the mixed forces which it was proposed should occupy Eastern Roumelia after the Russian evacuation, and that his Excellency was anxious to know the opinion of Her Majesty's Government upon the arrangement which Russia was said to approve.

The despatch to the Earl of Dufferin, of which a copy is inclosed, will show you that I agreed to the Russian proposal for mixed occupation on the condition that the other Signatory Powers consented to it, and to its being effected by a mixed force, consisting of contingents from such of the Signatory Powers as were willing to take part in it.

In making this condition Her Majesty's Government imply the assent of Turkey to the occupation, and consequently consider the presence of a Turkish contingent as an essential point. I have suggested, however, that Turkey might prefer to place her contingent on the frontiers rather than in the interior, and I have especially indicated Bourgas and Ichtiman as points at which it might be stationed.

I gather from Lord Dufferin's telegraphic reports that the Russian Government do not appear to object to the presence of Turkish troops at Bourgas, but that they object to the occupation by them of Ichtiman.

Your Excellency may communicate to Count Andrassy the substance of this information, but you should explain to him that nothing but informal communications on these points has passed between Her Majesty's Government and that of Russia.

You may further inform him that Her Majesty's Government do not yet know what view the Turkish Government are taking of the question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 20.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 205.)

Foreign Office, April 1, 1879.

Sir,

I AUTHORIZE your Excellency, if Count Andrassy should inquire of you the opinion of Her Majesty's Government as to the negotiations between the Turkish and Greek Commissioners at Prevesa, and as to the line of frontier which should be adopted, to speak to him generally in the sense of my despatch to Lord Lyons No. 275 of the 5th ultimo, copy of which you have received.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 21.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 110. Confidential.)

Philippopolis, March 13, 1879.

My Lord,

LAST evening in pursuance of a promise, Sir Collingwood Dickson and myself called on General and Madame Stolipine.

His Excellency appeared much embarrassed during the whole evening, as the incidents of M. Schmidt's journey to Slivno, which will be detailed in a further despatch, are to be to-day discussed at the Commission.

I therefore avoided all allusion to the subject.

The General, however, informed me that there was a great emigration of Christians from the evacuated districts round Adrianople, which amounted already to about 30,000.

I asked his Excellency what he intended to do with these people. He said he should settle them in houses and lands abandoned by the Turks. Your Lordship will perceive that this measure is in pursuance of a settled design to alter the whole character of the population of this province. On reference to my despatch No. 81 of the 29th October, it will be seen what General Stolipine then proposed. His ideas, as there reported, are being carried out almost to the letter. By one expedient or another the repatriation of the Turks has been prevented during the winter, and, now that the Russian troops are leaving, this immigration into Eastern Roumelia is stimulated by Russian agency, and the immigrants are settled on the properties of the Turkish refugees. The complications arising from these proceedings are very formidable. Any attempt at repatriation will be met by conflicts and disorders; and although the Turkish refugees may receive compensation elsewhere, the Mussulman element in the province will be reduced to a still smaller minority. As no doubt the able-bodied men amongst those immigrants have been armed and disciplined, the danger of collision is thus greatly enhanced.

A curious circumstance in connection with this movement has come to my knowledge. At Hasskeui, one of the persons who accompanied M. Schmidt saw a telegram addressed by General Stolipine to the Prefect of that town. It inquired whether he had received a certain letter, and whether he had communicated with Omer Aglin, a well-known Bashi-Bazouk leader. It went on to say that it was essential that he (the Prefect of Hasskeui) should see the Agha within the next few days.

Of course, it is impossible to say what is the nature of the confidence General Stolipine desires to repose in this bandit.

But as his Excellency never loses an opportunity of impressing upon us the great dangers to which the Christian population are exposed from the incursions of the Bashi-Bazouks, and the necessity thus forced upon him of arming the Bulgarians, an understanding with a leader such as Omer Agha is, to say the least, anomalous.

In connection with this subject I have the honour to inclose a Memorandum given me on the 6th instant by Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert. As I know General Tchernaieff had returned to Russia, and as the account seemed generally too highly coloured, I did not at once communicate it to your Lordship.

I have, however, received a letter from a gentleman at Tirnovo, a copy of which is inclosed, partly confirming the Report of Mr. Calvert. Of course, I have no means of testing these statements, but your Lordship cannot fail to perceive how violent is the agitation now going on in these regions.

Fortunately our project is now far advanced, and I hope will soon be finished. Perhaps

the peaceable introduction of a new Government may calm the mind of a population over-excited now for nearly four years.

I regret to say that another letter, written by the same gentleman, from Tirnovo, was accidentally destroyed. In this he stated that Baron de Ring had offered to the Bulgarians the protection of France. One of the persons to whom the offer was made then proceeded to Constantinople, where M. Fournier confirmed the offer.

As I had no communication on the subject with the author of the letter, his independent testimony confirms the reports I have already made to your Lordship as coming from other sources.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have obtained a translation of the Russian despatch above alluded to as having been addressed to the Prefect of Hasskeui. It is signed by Mr. Nekludoff, the head of General Stolipine's Chancery, and does not quite agree with the hearsay version I had received of it. The person who read it understands Russian, but the translation is given from memory.

The same person says he saw at the same time a list of thirteen Bashi-Bazouks, with figures attached to their names, as though for sums given or to be given. He can only remember the two first names—those of Omer Agha and Youssuf Agha.

H. D. W.

Inclosure 1 in No. 21.

Memorandum by Vice-Consul Calvert.

ACCORDING to a telegram from Sophia received by one of the Bulgarian agitators here, General Tchernaieff is now at Nish, where he is to be joined by 200 Servian officers, who have quitted their army in order to join and take command of the Bulgarian forces in Macedonia, where the insurrection is to break forth afresh on the 1st April.

News has also reached the Revolutionary Committee at Philippopolis that 20,000 stand of small arms and 20 guns have been sent to the Servo-Macedonian frontier, through Servia, by the Moscow Committee; that the latter Committee is also sending 6,000,000 roubles to Tchernaieff for the new Macedonian insurrection; and that 160 field guns for the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia were landed a few days ago at Bourgas.

Hieronymus Areteff, a Bulgarian educated in Russia, arrived here yesterday from Moscow, bearing instructions from the Panslavist Committee. He assisted at a meeting of the local Bulgarian Committee yesterday, at which, I am confidently informed, it was resolved that a great uprising of the Bulgarian peasantry should take place on the 1st April, and that the invasion of Macedonia should be renewed on the same day.

Immediately after the meeting twenty-two emissaries were sent out from Philippopolis to the villages to prepare the peasantry for a simultaneous rising on the appointed day.

According to information which I have received from more than one quarter it has been concerted between the Bulgarian Committee here and their Russian abettors that a number of Russian soldiers, disguised as Bulgarian peasants, shall take part in the rising; and an attack on Philippopolis and Tatar-Bazardjik, and the burning of these towns by the malcontents, are also seriously spoken of.

March 6, 1879.

March 15.—P.S. During the past week large quantities of peasant clothing have been brought in from the neighbouring villages. My confidential informant assures me that this clothing is to be worn by the Russian soldiers who are to take part in the Bulgarian rising.

Inclosure 2 in No. 21.

Mr. Fitzgerald to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

My dear Sir Henry,

Tirnova, March 4, 1879.

SINCE writing last night, I have heard a piece of news so important that I send it to you at once. You might tell Kallay of it. Tchernaieff's visit to Sophia was to get

Bulgarian co-operation in an insurrection planned to break out in Bosnia in the spring with Servia and Montenegro as a base backed by Russia from Bulgaria, where it is now nearly certain they (Russians) will remain for another six months, by arrangement with the Powers. This of course is aimed against Austria. It will not surprise you to hear that it is more than suspected that the Turks are in favour of this movement, and that Agents (Turkish) to stir up the Mussulmans are now in Bosnia. Dondoukoff refused to see Tchernaieff, but heard his views through an intermediary. It is nearly certain that the movement will not long be delayed as Tchernaieff is expected back shortly from Russia.

Prince Reuss is now definitively named as Prince for Bulgaria, and will be elected it is thought without any difficulty.

There is nothing else just now, but I think trouble is not far off.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) C. FITZGERALD.

No. 22.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 111.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, March* 14, 1879.

FROM the inclosed translation of an article in the last "Maritza," your Lordship will perceive that Prince Dondoukoff has not entirely given up all attempts to interfere in the affairs of this province.

By the inclosed it will be seen that Prince Dondoukoff proposes, as Commissioner in Bulgaria, to send certain pupils to study in Russia, and the notice is signed on his behalf by Baron Hübsch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 22.

Extract from the "Maritza" of February 27/March 11, 1879.

(Traduction.)

PAR décision de son Altesse le Commissaire en Bulgarie, on demande quarante-deux jeunes gens à l'âge de 15 à 20 ans et qui auraient subi leur instruction non moins de la deuxième ou troisième classe dans une école Bulgare ou autre, pour être envoyés: huit d'entr'eux dans l'Ecole Technique, quatre dans l'Ecole Pyrotechnique de St. Pétersbourg, et trente dans l'Ecole d'Armes de Toul.

On porte à la connaissance publique que les aspirants qui désirent entrer dans l'une des écoles susdites seront acceptés aux conditions suivantes:—

1. Il faut qu'ils fassent au Chef d'Arrondissement une requête, dans laquelle ils déclareront dans quelle école ils désirent entrer.

2. Dans cette requête on portera la certitude que l'aspirant est de 15 à 20 ans, et qu'assurément il a complété la deuxième ou la troisième classe.

3. Le Chef d'Arrondissement détermine où, quand, et devant qui ils sont obligés de se présenter.

4. Les élèves sont obligés, après leur cours d'enseignement, de servir dans la juridiction militaire Bulgare, un an et demi pour chaque année d'enseignement.

5. Ceux qui auraient terminé leur cours d'enseignement avec succès dans les écoles mentionnées et en sortent avec le titre de Maître Technique, Maître d'Armes, ou Obberfeyerwerker, auront un appointement de service non moins de 1,200 fr. par an.

6. De pareils Maitres, pour leurs efforts distingués et leur succès, pourraient être admis au premier grade d'officier, après avoir servi deux ans en qualité de Maître ou Obberfeyerwerker.

7. Ceux qui auront complété leur cours d'enseignement sans succès seront admis au service en qualité d'Adjudant du Maître, et serviront de même un an et demi pour chaque année d'enseignement.

Le Gouverneur-Général-Major,
(Signé) Baron GHUBCHE GROSSTAL.

No. 23.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 112.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, March* 15, 1879.

YESTERDAY I received a visit from M. Tchomakoff. I think this gentleman must be known to your Lordship. He is a Bulgarian who lived at Constantinople for a long time as Agent for the Bulgarians, and more recently as a Councillor of State.

I believe he was well known to Sir Henry Elliot, and supposed to be friendly to the policy of England. I have hitherto been unable to see him, as shortly after my arrival he was much afflicted by the loss of a daughter.

M. Tchomakoff told me that he thought the Bulgarians would be quite disposed to conform peaceably to the Treaty of Berlin, and to accept the proposals of the Commission, of which they approved, on three conditions, viz., the abolition of the Balkan garrisons, the appointment of an European Governor, and, if possible, a mixed occupation.

He said that the Balkan and Rhodope garrisons would shut in the province with a ring of iron not only irksome and dangerous to the province, but ruinous to the Porte. They could not be kept up under 100,000 or at least 50,000 men, and the money necessary for this purpose, if expended on public works in the province, would bind it far more securely to the Empire. The Balkan garrisons were also a danger to northern Bulgaria. He was opposed to the nomination of Rustem Pasha, whose experience in governing the Lebanon was not applicable here. As to the mixed occupation, he had once suggested it to Sir Henry Elliot, and regretted that the recommendation had not been adopted. In the present agitated state of the country the presence of foreign troops would produce a tranquillizing and otherwise beneficial effect.

I suggested that the absence of the Balkan garrisons might lead to the proclamation of union with northern Bulgaria. He replied that the proclamation might be made whether the garrisons were kept up or not. But he did not at all agree in my apprehensions. The Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia, when once secured against the return of former abuses, were prepared to accept the decisions of Europe. They knew that Europe had determined on the separation, and felt it was useless to dispute the point. But in many respects the inhabitants of this province preferred what they had heard of the institutions proposed by the Commission to those projected for Bulgaria. In that Principality there would be many public expenses, from which the province would be spared, a civil list for the Prince, possibly a standing army, and, perhaps, a costly policy of enterprise.

He begged me to bring these considerations before your Lordship, assuring me again and again of the desire of his fellow-countrymen to accept the settlement of Berlin, and the proposals of the Commission, but urging the danger that would follow the introduction of the Balkan garrisons and a Rayah Governor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 24.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 113.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, March* 15, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the 40th, 42nd, and 43rd Protocols.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 25.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 115.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, March* 15, 1879.

IN my despatch No. 1 of the 1st January I related to your Lordship the circumstances under which General Stolipine had proceeded with respect to a petition presented

to the Commission by some Turks, in which his Excellency declared there were misrepresentations.

The subject was discussed at our twenty-ninth sitting, and your Lordship will find a report of the discussion in our 29th Protocol.

The Turkish Commissioners informed me yesterday that the writer of the petition, who was accused of having falsified the petition, has been condemned to exile to Siberia.

This, to my mind, is a gross violation of the Treaty of Berlin, as the Decree of martial law, under which the sentence has been given, dates from a period previous to the Treaty of San Stefano, and the state of things which then existed has been abrogated by the different Treaties since then concluded.

Eastern Roumelia has been since the 3rd August a province of the Ottoman Empire; and, without entering into the different points of international law involved, it seems clear that the exceptional position assumed by Russia in this province does not authorize her to exile an Ottoman subject from Ottoman territory to Russia.

Whatever may be Russian authority here, it can only be local, and does not include the right of punishing Ottoman subjects as though they were Russian subjects.

The Ottoman Commissioners made a protest on the subject which I strongly supported, as I shall do again when the subject is mooted.

I have the honour also to inclose a copy of a petition presented to me by the family of this unhappy man.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 25.

Pétition.

PERMETTEZ aux malheureuses Soussignées, femme et sœur du nommé Topal Osman Bey, d'exposer respectueusement à votre Excellence ce qui suit :—

Ainsi que votre Excellence pourra facilement s'en assurer, il y a deux mois et demi Osman Bey, habitant du quartier Bey Medjid de Philippopoli, a présenté avec quelques autres habitants de son voisinage une requête à la Commission Européenne attirant sa haute attention sur l'état qui était fait à la mosquée de son quartier.

La transmission de cette requête aux autorités Russes a entraîné l'emprisonnement d'Osman Bey. Quelle n'est pas notre douleur, Excellence, d'apprendre aujourd'hui qu'il a été condamné après deux mois et demi d'incarcération à la déportation en Sibérie, pour avoir osé se plaindre à la Commission d'un fait dont il ne pouvait nullement se douter des conséquences funestes qu'aurait pour lui la révélation.

Père de six enfants en bas âge dont le plus jeune n'a que trois mois, ayant une mère aveugle et lui-même boiteux et infirme, la peine rigoureuse qu'il a encourue serait aussi funeste pour lui que profondément désolante pour sa nombreuse famille.

Les Soussignées, sa malheureuse femme et sa sœur, n'espèrent qu'en votre Excellence et élèvent vers elle des yeux éplorés et des bras suppliants pour implorer au nom des mineurs innocents, de leur mari et frère, sa haute intercession en vue de faire en sorte qu'il lui soit fait grâce de sa peine et qu'il soit rendu à sa famille.

Elles prennent, &c.
AICHÉE, *Femme d'Osman Bey.*
(Signé) BEHIÉ, *Sœur d'Osman Bey.*

Philippopoli, le 2 *Mars*, 1879.

No. 26.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 2.)

(No. 116.) *Philippopolis, March* 16, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 110 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a Memorandum furnished to me by Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert on the subject of the emigration from Adrianople.

M. de Contouly, who is at present travelling with M. Schmidt and General Stolipine, telegraphs to M. de Ring that he has seen large numbers of emigrants at Yamboli.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Statements as to the Motives of the present Emigration of Christians from the Province of Adrianople, made by Individual Refugees to Acting Vice-Consul Calvert.

PAPA DIMITRI, a Greek priest of Madritch, in the district of Demotica, states that he arrived here yesterday with twenty families of his village; and that the remaining inhabitants of Madritch are preparing to follow in a few days.

He further makes the following statement:—

"The village of Madritch formerly contained 260 families. In September last the whole population of the village migrated to Philippopolis; but 180 families returned to their homes in October and November. I was one of those who returned For some time before our second flight, the Russian Governor of Demotica, as I am told, went about informing every Christian whom he met that the Russian troops were about to depart, and giving them to understand that it would be dangerous for the Christian population to remain behind. On the 2nd March the Russian Governor summoned to Demotica the leading men of all the neighbouring Christian (Bulgarian and Greek) villages—two men from each village—and he asked them whether they preferred to be under Russian or Turkish rule. On their replying that they would rather live under Russian rule, he made them sign a declaration to that effect, and gave them passes for them and the people of their respective villages to travel by railway. He further promised them that they should not lose much by emigrating, as they would be given new dwellings and lands in Eastern Roumelia.

"Sixty-four villages of the Demotica district have since migrated, or are preparing to do so.

"We," (the 20 families, composing the first party of fugitives from Madritch, and the priest Dimitri) "started from Madritch on the 20th February/4th March, We reached Adrianople on the 6th, and came on here yesterday morning. The day before, on the 11th instant, two young men from Madritch arrived at Adrianople bringing some of the household effects of our party. These young men brought word that Turkish troops (20 cavalry) had occupied Madritch, and that, far from trying to prevent the Christians there from emigrating, they had actually offered to escort them as far as Demotica!"

In answer to a question, whether the Christians about Demotica have suffered any molestation from the Turks, Papa Dimitri states that the Pomaks of Mount Rhodope had, before the arrival of the Turkish troops, made the whole country very insecure. To his own knowledge they had waylaid five Greeks of his village and robbed them of their money and mules; and they had robbed another Greek of Madritch of a pair of oxen.

In spite of these misdeeds, Papa Dimitri declares that the Christian population would certainly not have emigrated had it not been for the promises of the Russian Governor. They would have remained quietly in their villages and not stirred out until order was restored by the Turkish authorities.

Pagona, wife of Georgi, labourer, of Lulé-Bourgas, a town of 5,000 inhabitants on the line of railway, states that he arrived here twenty days ago. She fled from Lulé-Bourgas, in company with about 120 others. The day before they quitted the town, a number of armed Turkish inhabitants of the neighbouring villages, returning in the wake of the Turkish troops, began to plunder and pull down the houses of the Christians. The Russian Governor, with ten soldiers, was still in the town, and the new Turkish Governor also. The latter tried hard to dissuade the Christians from leaving, promising to restore order in a short time, and, when he found that they would not listen to his advice and entreaties, he was so grieved that he shed tears.

The Turkish troops did not behave badly, but their Commander, on arriving, called up one of the chief Greeks of the town, and asked him to provide house accommodation for his soldiers (600 men); and, on the Greek Notable replying that there were no houses for the troops, the Turkish officer struck him and called him a Ghiaour. Houses were then found for the troops.

About a month before the return of the Turks, the Russian Governor summoned the chief men of the surrounding villages, and told them that the Russians were about to depart, asking whether they preferred to stay or fly.

Exactly the same thing appears, from Pagona's statement, to have taken place at Lulé-Bourgas as at Demotica. The Russian Governor obtained from the Christians a written declaration that they desired to emigrate, and gave them railway passes, after promising them dwellings and land in Eastern Roumelia.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT, *Acting Vice-Consul.*

Philippopolis, March 13, 1879.

No. 27.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 117.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, March* 16, 1879.

INCLOSED is a copy of the "Maritza," in which will be found an article highly laudatory of the policy and Commissioners of France.

Baron de Ring, who arrived last night, showed us a copy of a telegram *en clair* from Slivno from M. de Coutouly, and marked Confidential. It stated that wherever he went he was greeted with shouts of "Vive la France," and that he was moved and touched by the enthusiastic sympathy for his country universally testified by the Bulgarians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 28.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 118.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, March* 16, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a Report by M. Schmidt on the events of his recent journey to Slivno. Other documents are also annexed, not without interest.

I would venture specially to ask your Lordship's attention to a letter addressed by General Stolipine to M. de Coutouly, which forms Inclosure No. 3. This document gave rise to a discussion at the Commission, which will be reproduced in a Protocol not yet completed.

Your Lordship will perceive that General Stolipine makes a most unnecessary, and, as the majority of the Commission consider, a most unjustifiable attack on M. Schmidt, who has behaved, under very difficult circumstances and against the opposition of the Russian authorities, with courage, tact, and discretion.

The assertion that he has surrounded himself with Bulgarians of bad character is wholly devoid of foundation. Most of them were employed before he came, and the few he himself selected bear the highest character, and were recommended both by Bulgarians and Russians. The Pole referred to was selected by M. Schmidt on good certificates, and simply with the object of securing a person capable of speaking Russian, Turkish, Bulgarian, and French. No complaint was made against him previously by General Stolipine. Side by side, however, with this attack of General Stolipine's, an article was published in the "Maritza," of which a translation is inclosed, declaring falsely that M. Schmidt had spoken in wounding terms of the Bulgarians.

With reference to the statement that M. Schmidt had postponed his journey till it was too late, I have only to recall to your Lordship the numberless obstacles placed by Prince Dondoukoff, General Stolipine, and others in the way of our Financial Administration, which are not yet wholly removed, and which rendered M. Schmidt's departure earlier quite useless.

I would also point out to your Lordship that M. Schmidt did not go to any part of the province where Russian troops were not quartered; that General Ziehmeneff, the same General who commanded when the Delimitation Commission dispersed, had declined the responsibility of protecting him, and had stated that he could not rely on the Bulgarian militia.

In short, General Stolipine is not fortunate when he puts pen to paper, and he has taken the best course to place himself in the right by accompanying M. Schmidt himself to Slivno.

M. de Coutouly has also gone with them, and from a telegram received yesterday by Baron de Ring, it appears that matters have proceeded peacefully.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 28.

Report by M. Schmidt.

LUNDI matin, le 10 courant, j'ai quitté Hasskeui, et je suis arrivé à Yamboli à 6 heures du soir. Conformément à une offre faite par le Préfet de Police de Slivno, je l'avais prié de m'envoyer des voitures à Yamboli pour partir la nuit même pour Slivno. Comme ces voitures n'étaient pas arrivées, j'envoyai mon Secrétaire en ville pour avertir le Chef d'Arrondissement de mon arrivée, et de mon intention de partir aussitôt que possible pour Slivno. Après deux heures le Chef de l'Arrondissement vint me trouver à la gare, et m'amena chez lui; il avait établi un petit corps de garde dans la maison, qu'il renvoya ensuite parce que la ville était tout-à-fait tranquille, comme nous nous étions aperçu en y faisant une longue promenade.

Pendant la nuit deux gendarmes étaient arrivés de la part du Gouverneur de Slivno pour m'accompagner dans cette ville. Les voitures, commandées pour 7 heures du matin, n'arrivèrent qu'à 7 heures et demie, et en même temps le Chef d'Arrondissement vint me prévenir qu'il était impossible de partir, la maison étant cernée par une foule tumultueuse. Les deux issues de la cour étaient défendues par le Natchalnik, le Commissaire Russe, les deux gendarmes de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général, et quelques gendarmes Bulgares, de sorte que la foule ne pouvait pas entrer dans la cour située immédiatement devant la maison.

Les deux voitures furent brisées par la population, pour empêcher mon départ.

Lorsque le Natchalnik avait vu qu'il était impuissant de dissiper la foule, et lorsqu'il s'est persuadé que la sécurité même de ma personne était menacée, il avait envoyé au Commandant de Place, Colonel Sliaseviteli, pour réquisitionner des troupes. La première lettre n'avait pas été bien comprise, et on ne donna pas suite; alors il expédia une autre par son interprète Bulgare. La foule ne le laissa pas passer. Le Natchalnik envoya alors un Cosaque; la foule lui déchira la lettre, et le Cosaque revint. Un dernier messager enfin réussit à traverser la foule, et à donner des nouvelles de la situation au Commandant des troupes, qui arriva vers 10 heures, et bientôt quelques Cosaques arrivaient également.

En attendant, on avait mis le feu à la maison. Le Commissaire de Police s'en était a perçu, et, pour éteindre le feu, il devait se frayer un passage à travers la foule. On voulait l'empêcher, on l'insulta, on le battit, et on lui arracha ses galons. Les gendarmes Russes, pris pour des gendarmes Anglais, furent également insultés par la foule.

La foule commença à faire un trou dans le mur pour entrer dans la cour, lorsque vers 11 heures les troupes arrivèrent. Le Général Ziehméneff, Commandant des Etapes, était absent; le Général Markosoff, Commandant des Hôpitaux, arriva, et, après m'avoir dit qu'il n'y avait plus rien à craindre, il parla longuement à la foule pour la décider à me laisser partir. La foule consentit enfin, et exprima le désir de me voir; je me déclarai immédiatement prêt à sortir de la cour intérieure, mais le Général s'y opposa, et demanda à la foule de choisir une députation. Avant que la députation ne se présente, le Natchalnik m'avait remis l'adresse que je joins en original au présent Rapport.

La députation, composée de seize à dix-huit personnes, me reçut très-respectueusement, m'obligea de serrer la main à chacun d'entre eux, et m'assura que la démonstration n'était nullement dirigée contre ma personne, mais contre la Commission Européenne. Cette Commission voulait ramener le Gouvernement Turc, se mêler des affaires financières du pays, changer les employés élus par le peuple, et remettre l'argent qui appartient aux veuves et aux orphelins du pays au Sultan à Constantinople. Jamais la population ne permettrait cela, et on se ferait plutôt tuer qu'accepter l'Administration Financière de la Commission.

Je demandai aux députés si, dans les quatre mois de mon administration, les employés avaient été changés? Il devaient répondre que non. Je demandai s'ils savaient dans quelle langue je correspondais avec les employés? Ils savaient que c'était en langue Bulgare. Ils savaient que dans l'Administration Centrale de Philippopoli la plupart des employés étaient Bulgares. Mais alors ils parlaient de l'impossibilité d'accepter le Traité de Berlin après que le Traité de San-Stéfano leur avait donner l'indépendance.

La députation me pria de faire connaître l'opinion du peuple à la Commission Européenne, et me quitta en m'assurant que je n'avais rien à craindre pour ma personne.

Après vint encore une députation de femmes pour protester contre la Commission, le retour des Turcs, &c. Les femmes me disaient que j'étais un Anglais, envoyé par le Sultan pour leur prendre leur argent. Les nouvelles voitures qui avaient été commandées arrivèrent vers midi et demi, et je pouvais enfin quitter la ville de Yamboli pour me rendre à Slivno. La foule se tenait tranquillement sur les places en laissant voie libre aux voitures, qui étaient escortées par un détachement d'infanterie, et des Cosaques. Le pont de la Toundja était cerné par des troupes, et le cortége sortit de la ville sans être aucunement molesté. Je partis de Yamboli à midi et demi avec deux gendarmes Russes et un Bulgare dans les voitures, et deux gendarmes Bulgares et huit Cosaques qui suivaient à cheval.

Vers 3 heures je rencontrai le Vice-Gouverneur de Slivno, Lieutenant Rimski-Korsakoff, qui était venu à ma rencontre avec un Cosaque et trois gendarmes. Il me dit que j'étais attendu par une foule nombreuse, mais que tout se passerait bien. Toutefois il engagea un Colonel Russe, Commandant du 34e Régiment de Cosaques, qui était en route pour Slivno avec sa famille, et qui était accompagné de quatre Cosaques, de ne pas avancer, et d'attendre les événements.

Arrivés près de Slivno, nous vîmes une foule compacte qui stationnait devant la ville.

Le Sous-Gouverneur alla en avant avec quelques Cosaques pour faire une reconnaissance; nos voitures le suivirent. Lorsque nous nous étions approchés de la foule de 200 mètres à peu près, deux individus arrêtèrent la voiture, arrachèrent les brides d'un cheval et crièrent que les habitants ne permettraient pas que l'Anglais entrât dans la ville. Au même instant le Vice-Gouverneur revint avec le Maître de Police, également officier Russe. Ces deux fonctionnaires me conjuraient de faire tourner immédiatement les voitures. L'affaire était très-grave et ma vie sérieusement menacée. Le Gouverneur était dans la foule, estimée à 8,000 individus; mais il n'avait pas appelé des troupes pour contenir la populace.

J'ai dû céder aux instances du Vice-Gouverneur et du Maître de Police, et j'ai donné l'ordre de tourner les voitures.

Lorsque la foule s'en est aperçu, elle poussa des cris, et s'élança vers nous. Le Vice-Gouverneur, pour assurer ma retraite, chargea la foule; mais ne pouvait l'arrêter. On lança des pierres contre les Cosaques, et le Vice-Gouverneur lui-même fut atteint par une pierre. La foule continua à me suivre, et une partie alla jusqu'au pont de la Toundja, éloignée de Slivno de 10 kilom. environ. Là les hommes s'établirent pour empêcher mon retour. Le Colonel du 34e Régiment de Cosaques, qui essayait de traverser la foule pour aller à Slivno, fut insulté et obligé de rebrousser chemin, et de retourner à Yamboli.

J'ai rentré donc à Yamboli pour y attendre les résolutions que la Commission Européenne et le Gouverneur-Général prendraient pour me rendre possible l'exécution de mes fonctions. Le Vice-Gouverneur était également venu à Yamboli, et m'avait rejoint en route, en me félicitant d'avoir échappé à un mauvais tour de la populace.

A Yamboli j'ai reçu vers 9 heures du soir la visite du Général Zichméneff, Commandant des Etapes, qui me fit la déclaration suivante, lorsque je l'informai de mon intention de rester à Yamboli jusqu'à ce que j'aurais reçu des nouvelles de Philippopoli:—

"Après la sédition de ce matin j'ai tout lieu d'attendre que la même manifestation aura lieu demain à l'aube du jour. La révolte précédente était faite par 3,000 personnes qui tenaient des pierres en main. Le Général Markosoff a causé avec le peuple ce matin: il a employé différentes raisons pour l'apaiser, mais il n'y est parvenu que par garantissant votre départ immédiat. Ainsi demain la négociation avec la population ne pourra aboutir qu'à la même chose; sans garantir au peuple votre départ immédiat, il se trouvera des gens qui lanceront des pierres contre vous. Et comme je ne pourrai pas souffrir cela, je pense à ce que je pourrai faire alors.

"Les arguments sont épuisés. La présence seule des soldats par son effet morale ne suffit pas, parce qu'il ne se trouve ici que 300 soldats Russes environ dont je peux disposer; il y a encore une drogine Bulgare, mais je puis pas me fier sur elle en pareille occasion. Je serai donc réduit à faire usage des armes, et je n'ai pas le droit de le faire. Sans avoir cet ordre, je ne puis pas même garantir votre sécurité personnelle. Pour ces raisons il est de mon devoir de vous prier de quitter immédiatement la ville, et de vous installer pour la nuit à la station du chemin de fer, où j'ai fait préparer un wagon pour vous, et où toutes les mesures seront prises pour garantir votre sécurité personnelle jusqu'au départ du train."

En présence d'une déclaration aussi formelle, je devais renoncer à mon projet d'attendre des résolutions de la Commission à Yamboli, et je me rendis à la gare

conduit par le Natchalnik, le Vice-Gouverneur de Slivno, et escorté d'une vingtaine de soldats.

Chemin faisant nous entrâmes dans un restaurant pour manger quelque chose, vers minuit nous sortîmes, et alors le Natchalnik me dit qu'il croyait de son devoir de me dire qu'il avait reçu le soir une dépêche du Gouverneur de Slivno qui m'engage de venir de nouveau dans cette ville. Je reprochai au Natchalnik de ne pas m'avoir communiqué cette dépêche lorsque je discutais avec le Général. Le Vice-Gouverneur me consultait de suivre l'avis du Général. Le Gouverneur serait peut-être trop optimiste, d'autant plus qu'un officier retourné de Slivno avait raconté que la population installé au pont avait fait venir des fusils et des cartouches.

En vue de ce conseil et de la déclaration formelle du Général, je décidai de partir pour Philippopoli. Mais je priai le Natchalnik de soumettre immédiatement au Général Zichméneff la dépêche en question, et de le prier de m'envoyer un message à la station s'il croyait pouvoir garantir mon départ tranquil pour Slivno.

N'ayant rien reçu je suis parti le matin et arrivé ce soir à Philippopoli.

(Signé) A. SCHMIDT.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{1}{13}$ *Mars*, 1879.

Inclosure 2 in No. 28.

Letter to M. Schmidt from Inhabitants of Yamboli.

Yamboli, le 27 *Février*, 1879.

COMME vous êtes le répresentant d'une Commission chargée de réinstaller l'autorité Turque dans notre province, il nous est impossible de vous confier les Caisses déjà confiées aux employés élus par nous autres.

Il fallait venir à notre aide dans le temps des fameux massacres de nous protéger de la barbarisme Turque pour avoir maintenant le droit de les réclamer.

Veuillez, &c.

(Les habitants de la Ville de Yamboli avec les environs.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 28.

General Stolipine to M. de Contouly.

Monsieur,

J'AI l'honneur de vous communiquer ci-joint une traduction d'un télégramme que je viens de recevoir de M. Ivanhoff, Gouverneur de Slivno.

Vous y trouverez un récit assez détaillé des incidents regrettables qui semblent vouloir suivre M. Schmidt de ville en ville dans le courant du voyage qu'il a bien voulu entreprendre pour réviser la nouvelle Administration Financière.

Les faits qui se produisent sont hélas inévitables. La Diète de Tirnovo et l'émigration du Sandjak d'Andrinople ne peuvent qu'exciter l'effervescence des esprits dans le pays. Je savais bien que nous devions nous y attendre, et c'est la raison pour laquelle j'avais maintes fois prié M. Schmidt d'entreprendre sa tournée d'inspection, il y a de cela deux mois, et non à présent, c'est-à-dire dans un moment qui ne saurait et ne pourrait être considéré comme calme et comme apte à des voyages, surtout pour des personnes qui ont eu le talent de se rendre aussi peu sympathiques aux Bulgares, qu'a réussi à le faire M. Schmidt.

Je suis loin de l'idée de lui imputer à crime, je me borne seulement à signaler une fois de plus un fait sur lequel j'ai eu l'honneur d'attirer déjà plus d'une fois l'attention de messieurs vos honorables collègues.

Ce n'est pas en s'entourant de Bulgares d'une réputation plus que douteuse et ne voyageant accompagné d'un aventurier Polonais, qui a dû émigrer pour échapper à la peine qu'il aurait encourue en Russie, que la nouvelle Direction des Finances peut espérer acquérir une position digne et inspirer du respect à la population.

L'administration Russe fera son devoir; M. Schmidt reste, et restera à l'abri de toute attaque personnelle; le Gouverneur, le Vice-Gouverneur, vingt Cosaques, et des gendarmes l'accompagnent dans son voyage actuel; de plus, les chefs des détachements militaires cantonnés dans différentes villes sont engagés à disperser, fut-ce même par force armée, tout attroupement du peuple.

Telles sont les mesures prises par l'Administration; mais toutefois si M. Schmidt, dans sa tournée, voulant encore une fois s'écarter des indications qui lui seront données

par les autorités civiles et militaires, de même que s'il voulait entreprendre un voyage dans les districts du Gouvernement de Slivno où il n'y a pas de troupes Russes ou de la milice Rouméliote cantonnées je ne pourrais plus répondre même de sa sécurité personnelle.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. STOLIPINE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 28.

M. Ivanoff to General Stolipine.

(Traduction.)
(Télégraphique.) *Le 27 Février, 10 h. 50 m. soir.*

M. SCHMIDT est arrivé hier à Yamboli. Ce matin à 7 heures, malgré toutes les mesures prises, les habitants de la ville ont entouré son logement sans toutefois se livrer à aucune voie de fait. A midi il est parti sans escorte pour Slivno. A la nouvelle de l'arrivée de M. Schmidt les habitants de Slivno qui venaient d'accompagner son Excellence le Général-en-chef, parti aujourd'hui, se sont rassemblés devant la maison où réside la régence du Gouvernement. Là-dessus je suis sorti de la maison, et j'ai personnellement dispersé la foule, en lui rappelant la responsabilité qu'elle pouvait encourir.

J'ai spécialement chargé le Vice-Gouverneur et le Préfet de Police d'aller à la rencontre de M. Schmidt, afin de veiller personnellement au maintien de l'ordre.

Cependant les habitants de la ville en masse considérable (pas moins de 10,000 habitants) sont sortis sur les routes qui mènent de Slivno à Yamboli, Yéni-Zagra, Karnabat, et se sont rendus jusqu'à une distance d'environ cinq ou six verstes. A la vue de cette foule M. Schmidt, qui était escorté par le Vice-Gouverneur, le Préfet de Police, les Gendarmes, et trente Cosaques, sans atteindre Slivno, est retourné sur ses pas. J'ai chargé le Vice-Gouverneur de le suivre en insistant pour qu'il vienne à Slivno, ce que je considère comme indispensable.

J'espère que tout se passera bien. J'ai donné l'ordre de faire arrêter les coupables afin de les traduire en cour martiale.

Inclosure 5 in No. 28.

M. Nekludoff to M. de Coutouly.

Cher M. de Coutouly, *Philippopoli, le 7/19 Mars*, 1879.

LE Général Stolipine me charge de vous communiquer un télégramme qu'il vient de recevoir de M. Ivanoff, Gouverneur de Slivno.

C'est plus que regrettable que M. Schmidt n'ait pas voulu accéder à la demande du Gouverneur et n'ait pas poursuivi son voyage jusqu'à Slivno; je suis certain que les désordres une fois énergiquement réprimés, tout se serait passé le plus paisiblement du monde.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) NEKLUDOFF.

Inclosure 6 in No. 28.

M. Ivanoff to General Stolipine.

(Traduction.) *Slivno, le 28 Février, 4 h. 15 m. soir.*

M. SCHMIDT est parti ce matin pour Philippopoli et n'a pas accepté ma proposition de venir à Slivno.

Je vous envoie par courrier un rapport détaillé sur l'incident du 27 Février.
(Signé) IVANOFF.

Inclosure 7 in No. 28.

Extract from the "Maritza" of $\frac{\text{February 27}}{\text{March 11}}$, 1879.

VOYAGE DE M. SCHMIDT À HASSKEUI.—Avant quelques jours le Directeur des Finances de la baptisée Roumélie Orientale, M. Schmidt en personne est allé à Hasskeuï pour recevoir les comptes de la Caisse. En apprenant son arrivée, la population se réunit en groupes, et les plus notables habitants craignant que quelque désagrément n'eût lieu, allèrent devant M. Schmidt pour le prier de ne pas insister de s'emparer de la Caisse. Le Gouverneur-Général ayant appris par dépêche cette résistance, il jugea d'envoyer le Gouverneur de Plovdiv, le Général Major Glubchc, à Hasskeuï, pour examiner l'affaire et d'emmener ici les coupables; ce qui fut fait, parce que avant-hier son Excellence est retourné ici avec une dizaine d'individus de Hasskeuï.

Comme nous apprenons que la cause de l'irritation contre M. Schmidt n'est pas de ce que lui, en qualité de Directeur des Finances, désigné par la Commission Européenne, veut accomplir son devoir; mais à cause que la population est aigrie contre lui personnellement, parce qu'elle a entendu que dans plusieurs circonstances M. Schmidt se serait permis de se déclarer contre les Bulgares par des paroles piquantes, qui ne conviennent pas à un fonctionnaire public comme lui.

Nous avons jugé utile d'entrer dans ces détails pour faire éviter aux lecteurs d'interprétation sur cette affaire; parce qu'il ne faut pas laisser croire qu'il sera impuni, celui qui résisterait aux ordres formels de l'autorité, qui exigent qu'on rende les comptes de toutes les Caisses de la contrée à la Commission Européenne Mixte, qui, d'après l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin, seule a le droit de diriger les finances de ce pays, jusqu'à ce qu'elle ait fini l'organisation définitive.

En cette circonstance, nous en appelons à l'attention de tous, sur le danger qui proviendrait si nous ne prenons les mesures de nous conformer toujours entièrement aux exigences des circonstances. Ensuite n'oublions jamais que quelle que soit notre position, nous sommes obligés de respecter et accomplir les ordres des autorités.

No. 29.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 119.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, March 16, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of Chapter XI, on the "Gendarmerie," as drawn up by M. de Torcy, in conjunction with General Sir C. Dickson and Colonel Schopelew.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 29.

CHAPITRE XI.—GENDARMERIE.

I.—*Bases de l'Institution.*

Article 1er. La gendarmerie est une force indigène instituée pour veiller à la sûreté publique et pour assurer le maintien de l'ordre, l'exécution des lois et celle des réglements de police rendus par les autorités compétentes. Une surveillance continue et répressive constitue l'essence de son service; son action s'exerce dans toute l'étendue du territoire de la province.

Art. 2. La gendarmerie est particulièrement destinée à assurer la sûreté des villes, des campagnes, et des voies de communication.

Elle contribue, en outre, de concert avec les agents de la police rurale, à surveiller les lieux publics et à y maintenir l'ordre. A ce titre, elle est toujours aux ordres des représentants de l'autorité administrative pour dissiper, par les voies légales, les attroupements séditieux.

La gendarmerie est subordonnée également aux fonctionnaires de l'ordre judi-

claire pour procéder aux enquêtes et aux recherches, pour en constater les résultats par procès-verbaux, et pour opérer les arrestations en vertu de mandats d'amener.

Au cas de flagrant délit ou de suspicion légitimée par des informations probantes, elle a le droit de procéder spontanément aux arrestations, à charge pour elle d'en dresser immédiatement procès-verbal et de conduire, dans les vingt-quatre heures au plus tard, les personnes arrêtées devant l'officier de police judiciaire dans le ressort duquel l'arrestation a eu lieu.

Elle peut enfin être chargée de conduire et d'escorter les prisonniers civils ou militaires, les fous dangereux, les convois d'armes et de munitions, et, d'une manière générale, remplir toutes les missions qui lui sont confiées par l'autorité administrative pour assurer le maintien de l'ordre à l'intérieur de la province.

Art. 3. La gendarmerie est placée, au point de vue de la discipline, de l'instruction, et de l'administration intérieures, sous les ordres directs du commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Art. 4. La gendarmerie est directement subordonnée à l'autorité administrative et judiciaire pour l'exécution des dispositions contenues à l'Article 2; elle est, en conséquence, tenue d'obéir à toutes les réquisitions qui lui sont adressées par les fonctionnaires indiqués ci-dessus.

Les réquisitions doivent toujours être adressées au chef de détachement ou, en cas de refus, à celui qui commande immédiatement après lui. Elles doivent être formulées par écrit si le chef de détachement en fait la demande, et ne peuvent être données et exécutées que dans le ressort de celui qui les donne et de celui qui les exécute.

Art. 5. La gendarmerie peut, en cas de besoin, requérir, pour l'exécution de son mandat, toutes les fois qu'elle se sent gravement menacée, le concours des agents de la police rurale, des gardes forestiers, et même celui des simples citoyens.

Si elle se sent impuissante à remplir, sans le secours d'une force supplétive, une mission qui lui est confiée, elle prend, vis-a-vis de l'autorité administrative, l'initiative d'une proposition tendant à requérir la coopération des fractions permanentes de la milice locale.

Art. 6. Dans le cas où l'apparition de bandes armées mettrait en danger la sécurité d'une localité qui n'est pas le siége d'un fonctionnaire administratif, la gendarmerie prend immédiatement, à charge d'en rendre compte sans retard, les dispositions nécessaires pour protéger la vie et les biens des citoyens. Elle peut, pour repousser une attaque ou poursuivre les perturbateurs, requérir les agents de la police rurale et elle en prend de droit le commandement.

Art. 7. Tout gendarme, dans l'exercice de ses fonctions, est investi des pouvoirs dévolus à une sentinelle; tout injure ou tout acte de résistance donne lieu à une poursuite devant les Tribunaux militaires, et la pénalité est la même que pour injure ou rebellion contre une sentinelle.

Art. 8. Les droits et les devoirs du personnel de la gendarmerie, les détails de ses rapports avec les autorités civiles des divers ordres, et les instructions spéciales sur le service ordinaire et extraordinaire, seront déterminés par une loi provinciale.

Un règlement annexé à ce Chapitre règle provisoirement le mode d'application immédiate de ces dispositions.

II.—*Organisation.*

Art. 9. L'unité d'organisation de la gendarmerie est la brigade. La brigade comprend de six à huit hommes.

Elle est composée d'hommes à pied ou d'hommes à cheval; il peut être aussi créé des brigades mixtes, composées d'hommes à pied et d'hommes à cheval.

La brigade est commandée par un sous-officier ou un brigadier.

Art. 10. La réunion de six à douze brigades constitue la section, sous les ordres d'un officier.

Art. 11. La compagnie est formée par la réunion sous un même commandant de deux à quatre sections. Le Chef de la compagnie est un capitaine.

Art. 12. Les commandants de compagnies sont établis au chef-lieu des préfectures; leur ressort ne s'étend pas au delà des limites du département.

Les commandants de sections sont placés au chef-lieu des cantons. Deux cantons peuvent toutefois être réunis pour former le ressort d'une même section; dans ce cas, un sous-officier exerce le commandement direct dans le canton où ne réside pas le commandant de la section.

Art. 13. En dehors des compagnies de gendarmerie départementale, il est formé,

au chef-lieu de la province, un corps de gendarmerie mobile. Le corps est plus spécialement chargé du service de police urbaine au siége du Gouvernement; il est aussi à la disposition du Gouverneur-Général qui le dirige sur les points où les circonstances rendent momentanément nécessaire la présence d'une force auxiliaire.

La gendarmerie mobile, dont l'effectif variera selon l'état des ressources financières de la province, comprend un cadre de compagnie d'infanterie et un demi cadre d'escadron.

L'effectif permanent de la compagnie d'infanterie ne pourra être inférieur à soixante-dix hommes, celui de l'escadron à quarante cavaliers.

La gendarmerie mobile est commandé par un Capitaine ou officier supérieur.

Art. 14. L'état-major du corps de la gendarmerie comprend, en dehors du commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie:—

1. Un officier supérieur spécialement chargé du service des inspections, et appelé à suppléer en cas d'empêchement le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.
2. Un Capitaine ou officier supérieur, Chef de la Chancellerie.
3. Un Officier Trésorier.
4. Un Officier adjoint au Trésorier (facultatif).
5. Un officier chargé de l'habillement, de l'équipement, et de l'armement.

Un petit état-major, composé de sous-officiers, caporaux, et gendarmes, dont l'effectif est déterminé en raison du besoin et des ressources financières, est à la disposition des officiers de l'état-major du corps pour remplir les fonctions de secrétaires et de garde magasins. Ces hommes sont classés dans la gendarmerie mobile, en excédant du cadre réglementaire.

Il est formé, dans le corps, un Conseil d'Administration composé:

1. De l'Officier Supérieur Inspecteur, Président du Conseil;
2. Du Chef de la Chancellerie;
3. De l'Officier Trésorier;
4. De l'Officier d'Habillement;
5. Du Capitaine commandant la compagnie du chef-lieu, ou de l'officier commandant la gendarmerie mobile, à tour de rôle.

Le Conseil est collectivement responsable de la bonne gestion des deniers et matières.

Art. 15. Le Gouverneur-Général détermine, sur la proposition du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie et du Secrétaire-Général Directeur de l'Intérieur, la répartition des sections et des brigades dans les départements et cantons.

Le nombre des brigades et l'effectif des hommes à pied et à cheval sont fixés, dans les limités indiquées aux Articles 9 et 10, lors du vote du budget par l'Assemblée Provinciale.

La composition intérieure des brigades, en gendarmes à pied et gendarmes à cheval, est fixée par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, après entente avec le Directeur de l'Intérieur.

Le Gouverneur-Général, sur la proposition du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, procède, selon les besoins du service, aux mutations dans le personnel des officiers, sous-officiers et soldats de la gendarmerie.

Art. 16. Les officiers commandant les sections et les Capitaines commandant les compagnies remplissent, respectivement, les fonctions de Commissaires et de Commissaires centraux de police, dans le ressort de leurs sections ou de leurs compagnies.

Par exception, le Capitaine commandant la compagnie départementale du chef-lieu de la province n'est pas investi de ces fonctions pour cette ville elle-même. Celles-ci sont dévolues au Commandant de la gendarmerie mobile qui est assisté, dans ce service, par les officiers subalternes placés sous ses ordres directs.

Art. 17. Les Préfets sont autorisés à modifier temporairement, en cas de besoin, l'état de répartition des brigades, en détachant, sur un point donné, le nombre des gendarmes qu'ils jugent nécessaire.

Ils transmettent, à cet effet, des ordres aux Commandants de compagnies qui sont tenus d'y déférer immédiatement. Les Préfets doivent en rendre compte sans retard au Secrétaire-Général Directeur de l'Intérieur. Les Commandants de Compagnie, de leur côté, informent le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

III.—*Dispositions Générales.*

Art. 18. Conformément aux dispositions du Chapitre I, Article 7, les officiers subalternes de la gendarmerie sont nommés par le Gouverneur-Général agissant en vertu de la délégation permanente de Sa Majesté le Sultan. Ils sont recrutés, soit parmi les officiers de la milice, sur la proposition de leurs chefs hiérarchiques, soit parmi les sous-officiers du corps de la Gendarmerie, conformément aux dispositions réglementaires sur l'avancement.

A défaut de candidats de ces deux catégories, et, en particulier, pour la période d'organisation, le Gouverneur-Général est autorisé à nommer, sur la proposition d'une Commission présidée par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, soit des habitants de la province n'ayant servi que dans les corps provisoires organisés avant ou pendant l'occupation, soit des militaires ou d'anciens militaires étrangers.

Les uns et les autres ne sont toutefois admis qu'après constatation de leur aptitude technique.

Art. 19. Les sous-officiers, caporaux, et gendarmes de première classe sont nommés par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie sur des états de propositions établis par les Commandants de compagnie et approuvés par les Préfets.

Art. 20. Les officiers et sous-officiers de nationalité étrangère peuvent, en exécution des dispositions de l'Article 18, être admis dans la gendarmerie de la Roumélie Orientale, en vertu de contrats renouvelables à durée limitées; ces contrats, qui déterminent la durée de leur engagement, le grade qui leur est attribué, et le dédit pécuniaire que leur est alloué en cas de résiliation anticipée, doivent être approuvés par une délibération spéciale du Comité Permanent.

Ces contrats ne peuvent, de même, être résiliés par le Gouverneur-Général que sur l'avis conformé du dit Comité.

Dans le cas où un officier étranger serait révoqué comme coupable d'un crime ou délit en vertu d'un Arrêt du Conseil de Guerre, le contrat se trouve résilié de fait et l'officier perd tout droit au paiement d'une indemnité.

Art. 21. La possession des grades conférés aux officiers originaires de la province ou qui y ont acquis l'indigénat est entourée des garanties ci-après indiquée.

Tout officier indigène ne peut être suspendu ou révoqué que par décision du Gouverneur-Général ou par Arrêt du Conseil de Guerre.

La suspension est prononcée par le Gouverneur-Général sur la proposition du Conseil privé. La durée de la suspension par mesure disciplinaire ne peut excéder six mois; elle est d'un an au plus lorsqu'elle est prononcée pour cause d'infirmités temporaires. A l'expiration de cette période de six mois ou d'un an, le Gouverneur-Général est astreint à soumettre au Comité Permanent la question de la réintégration de l'officier; le Comité décide si celui-ci doit être révoqué, pensionné, ou réintégré.

L'officier suspendu conserve la qualité d'officier; il a droit, pendant la durée de sa suspension, à une solde de non-activité, à la condition de fixer sa résidence dans une localité déterminée par le Gouverneur-Général. Tout refus d'obéissance de sa part entraîne, de droit, la révocation.

La révocation ne peut être prononcée par le Gouverneur-Général que sur l'avis conforme du Comité Permanent de l'Assemblée Provinciale; la décision affirmative de ce Comité n'oblige toutefois le Gouverneur-Général à prononcer la révocation que dans le cas de récidive ou si l'officier a été suspendu pendant six mois accomplis.

La révocation par Arrêt du Conseil de Guerre est prononcée en conformité des lois militaires en vigueur dans la province.

L'officier révoqué perd tous ses droits à la retraite, aux honneurs et à la solde de son grade, et cesse d'appartenir au corps de la gendarmerie.

Art. 22. Les décisions relatives à la suspension ou à la révocation sont immédiatement exécutoires; il ne peut y être fait appel.

Par exception à cette disposition générale, le Gouverneur-Général est obligé de soumettre à la ratification de Sa Majesté le Sultan l'arrêté de révocation rendu contre tout officier supérieur. Jusqu'à l'arrivée de la décision Impériale la concernant, l'officier supérieur mis en cause est seulement considéré comme suspendu.

Art. 23. La cassation et la rétrogradation des sous-officiers et caporaux sont prononcées par le Gouverneur-Général sur la proposition du Conseil d'Administration du corps, qui remplit, en ces circonstances, le rôle de Conseil de discipline.

La suspension, pour les sous-officiers et caporaux, et la cassation, pour les

gendarmes de première classe, sont prononcées par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

La durée de la suspension ne peut excéder trois mois.

Art. 24. La composition du personnel de la gendarmerie est réglée, par le Gouverneur-Général et le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, de façon à établir une proportion équitable entre les divers éléments de population de la Province.

Cette proportion devra se retrouver, autant que possible, dans la constitution des cadres.

Il sera tenu compte des mêmes principes pour la répartition des membres de la gendarmerie entre les différentes localités.

Art. 25. La gendarmerie est recrutée par voie d'engagements volontaires.

Ne sont admis à s'engager dans la gendarmerie que les hommes ayant terminé leur première année de service dans la milice locale. La durée du premier engagement est de deux ans. Il peut être renouvellé d'année en année jusqu'à ce que l'homme ait atteint vingt-cinq ans de services effectifs, époque à laquelle il a droit à la retraite.

Le Gouverneur-Général est toujours en droit d'annuler les engagements.

Art. 26. Nul ne peut être admis à s'engager comme gendarme:—

1. S'il ne produit les attestations légales d'une bonne conduite soutenue;

2. S'il n'est doué d'une bonne constitution.

Nul ne peut être admis comme caporal ou être promu à ce grade s'il ne sait lire et écrire dans une des trois langues principales de la province.

Art. 27. Tout gendarme rengagé a droit à partir du premier jour de sa cinquième année de service dans la gendarmerie, à une haute paie journalière d'ancienneté dont le chiffre est fixé, pour les soldats, caporaux et sous-officiers, par le règlement provisoire ci-annexé.

Cette haute paie s'augmente annuellement jusqu'à la huitième année de service, après laquelle elle cesse de croître.

Tout gendarme rengagé porte sur la manche un chevron en laine; ce chevron est en or pour les sous-officiers et pour les gendarmes ayant six ans de service accomplis.

Art. 28. Tout ancien gendarme qui rentre dans ses foyers après huit années de service et qui est porteur d'un certificat de bonne conduite délivré par le Conseil d'Administration du corps est exempt des corvées et des prestations en nature pour les travaux de voirie et la fourniture ou la conduite de chevaux et voitures de réquisition.

Art. 29. Une loi provinciale fixera la solde des officiers, sous-officiers et gendarmes, déterminera l'uniforme, l'équipement et l'armement, et réglera les tarifs des frais de tournées supplémentaires, indemnités et gratifications. Elle déterminera l'organisation des services de la remonte des fourrages, du casernement et des vivres, ainsi que celui des pensions et secours. Des dispositions spéciales seront prises pour assurer l'instruction des enfants des gendarmes mariés.

Les plus urgentes de ces dispositions sont déterminées, à titre provisoire, par le règlement ci-annexé, qui demeure exécutoire, jusqu'au vote de la loi provinciale prévue à l'alinéa précédent.

No. 30.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 2.*)

(No. 120. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, March* 16, 1870.

THE Greek Metropolitan has informed Mr. Calvert that three Greeks have come here from Adrianople with a letter from some Russian General at that town, desiring the authorities here to give them arms to join the Macedonian insurrection.

His Eminence saw the letter, but, not understanding Russian, was unable to read it. He has, however, asked these Greeks to call on him to-morrow, when he will endeavour to obtain a translation of it.

It also comes to me from more than one source that the Russians are buying up

and bringing into the town peasants' clothing in which to disguise Russian soldiers intended to take part in the approaching insurrection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 31.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 121.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, March 16, 1879.*

THE Reverend Mr. Rosenburg, a Presbyterian Minister, residing at Adrianople, called on me this morning.

He told me that the emigration was much exaggerated, and that the measures taken by Réouf Pasha had much tranquillized the population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 32.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 122.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, March 16, 1879.*

INCLOSED is a Memorandum by the Turkish Commissioners, respecting an outrage committed by some Bulgarians on a Turkish woman.

Mr. Cartwright and Mr. Calvert visited the woman. Mr. Cartwright verified the injuries committed on her, but, not understanding the language, is, of course, unable to give an opinion on her declaration.

I have, however, the honour to inclose a Report on the subject by Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

P.S.—Since the action of the Russian authorities in the case of Osman Bey, related in my despatch No. 115 of this day's date, I do not venture to recommend any appeal to the Commission in such matters.

H. D. W.

Inclosure 1 in No. 32.

Memorandum.

DANS la nuit de Samedi du 22 Février, plusieurs Bulgares, dont quelques-uns habillés en volontaires, enfoncèrent la porte de la maison de Fatma, fille de Hassan, habitante du village Aidin, commune de Coyoun-Tépé, une de celles qui dépendent de Philippopoli.

Ils y pénétrèrent, et après avoir usé de menaces pour amener Fatma à déclarer le lieu où elle avait caché son argent, ils les firent suivre d'actes féroces et barbares.

Ils firent rougir au feu une pelle en fer, qu'ils trouvèrent à leur portée et la traînèrent sur le sein de la malheureuse femme. Ils ne s'en contentèrent pas, et avec un cimeterre, ils la battirent à mort.

Fatma, ne pouvant plus douter du danger que courait sa vie, leur indiqua le lieu où elle avait enfoui tout ce qui constituait son modique trésor ; 8 roubiés, 5 mahmoudiés, et 2 girmiliks.

Mais ils ne s'en suffisèrent pas, et ils commençaient déjà à reprendre les mêmes moyens qui leur avaient si bien réussi, lorsque Fatma s'évanouit. La croyant morte, ils se ruèrent hors de la maison, et dans leur précipitation ils écrasèrent la toute petite fille de Fatma, qui n'avait que six mois encore.

Ce n'est pas sur elle seulement, Fatma, qu'ils ont consommé les actes dont il vient d'être parlé. Ils avaient battu à sang sa fille de 4 ans, et avaient menacé de la mort, en le mettant à genoux devant eux, son fils âgé de 14 ans.

Les Bulgares se sont emparés des terres, champs, prairies, moulins, bestiaux des Musulmans du village d'Aidin, qui n'ont pas une seule pouce de terrain pour faire leurs ensemencements.

Quelques-uns d'entre eux se rendaient dernièrement à Peshtéré pour y acheter du sel et du savon, lorsque des Bulgares qu'ils rencontrèrent sur leur passage les pillèrent de leur argent et de leurs chevaux.

Quatre femmes Musulmanes du même village ont été violées par les Bulgares, dont l'une est morte le lendemain.

Des Bulgares assassinèrent la nommée Fatmachah, du même village, ainsi que son fils.

Lorsque les Mouktars du village dont il s'agit se sont adressés aux autorités Russes pour se plaindre des méfaits des Bulgares celles-ci, sans vouloir même écouter leurs plaintes, les mirent sous escorte, et leur intimèrent l'ordre d'apporter les dimes dans les quarante-huit heures, sous la menace d'être possibles de 100 roubles d'amende et de cinquante coups de bâton.

Inclosure 2 in No. 32.

Statement of Fatma, Wife of Hadji Ali, of Aidinkeui, District of Koyoun Tepé.

TEN days ago, about four hours after sundown, my husband being absent at Peshtera, our house was surrounded by a band of Bulgarians, four of whom entered. Two of these wore the uniform of the police. I should perhaps know them if I saw them again. They first of all asked for the old man (her husband). I said he was not at home. They then proceeded to ransack the cupboards and drawers. Not finding any money in them they turned upon me with threatening gestures, saying, "Where is your money?" I said, "I will give you all I possess." And then I went into the bath-room, and lifted up a flag-stone, under which I had a number of gold coins hidden. I gave them this money. There were 5 mahmoudiehs and 80 roubiehs (worth respectively 90 and 12 piastres each), and some other coins. They said this was not enough, and proceeded to tie my hands behind my back. Then they threw me down, seized me by the hair, and beat me with their yatagans till I was almost unconscious.

Failing still to get any more money from me, three of them held me down on my back, while a third took live embers off the hearth and placed them on my breast. I fainted from pain. Then they went out, taking my daughter with them, Soutlich, 11 years of age, saying they would kill her if she did not show them where to get more money. But they ultimately set her free.

My husband brought me to town a week ago, and gave a petition to the Governor for redress. Three Bulgarians were arrested at Aidinkeui in consequence of this petition, but they have been releasd on bail. Neither I nor my daughter have been confronted with them, nor have we been asked to give our evidence.

The above statement was made to me by Fatma, wife of Hadji Ali of Aidinkeui, at Philippopolis, in the presence of her husband, and of Mr. Cartwright, Secretary to the European Commission, this third day of March, 1879.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 33.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 245. Secret.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 15, 1879.*

AFTER the dinner to which I had the honour of being invited yesterday evening by the Sultan I had a long conversation with His Majesty, at which the Grand Vizier and Sir Alfred Sandison were alone present.

His Majesty, after gracious remarks and inquiries about the Queen and the Royal

Family, spoke about Eastern Roumelia. I had previously heard that His Majesty wa very much alarmed lest this question should again bring on war, and His Majesty' remarks tended in this direction. He asked me what I thought were the intentions of Russia, and whether the outbreak of troubles in the province would not be the signal for her to send back her troops and so force a new war. I replied that I thought Russia would do all she possibly could to embarrass His Majesty's Government and to render it impossible for the Empire to advance, but that in these efforts she would stop short of war. I told His Majesty that the news which I had received from the new Principality of Bulgaria showed that the moderate party was gaining ground, and that there was reason to hope that they would not inaugurate their liberty by plunging into war for the sake of union with Eastern Roumelia; that if this hope were well founded Eastern Roumelia would have to contend alone with Turkey, and if the inhabitants saw that there was a strong Ottoman force on the frontier acting under the sanction of Europe, and accompanied by English Commissioners and, I hoped, the Commissioners of other Powers, they would appreciate the uselessness of the struggle and allow the authority of His Majesty to be reinstalled in peace. For this purpose it was absolutely necessary that His Majesty should have a well-organized and powerful force ready to act in case of need, and that the attention of the Ottoman Government should not be distracted by other pressing and unfinished negotiations. I therefore strongly urged upon His Majesty the necessity of settling the Greek and the Austrian questions without delay, in order that his hands might be quite free to deal with Eastern Roumelia when the time came. If this were done His Majesty might gain possession of the province without bloodshed, and thereby avoid an excuse to Russia in case I should be mistaken in my opinion and she should have the design of renewing the war.

His Majesty stated that he had already given orders for the instructions to be sent to Moukhtar Pasha and the resumption of the negotiations for the Austrian Convention, and he trusted that both these questions might be terminated; but he was asked to yield a great deal. I ventured to remark that His Majesty was not asked now to yield anything that had not been contemplated by the Treaty of Berlin, which His Majesty had frankly accepted.

The Sultan proceeded to talk about his own action in exiling so many persons who had held high office during his reign and previously. He said that all these persons were self-seekers, and that they had laboured for their own advancement rather than the good of the State; that if they had given good counsel in time Servia and Roumania might have fought as the allies of Turkey against Russia; that all these States had wanted was the removal of petty restrictions, which acted as wounds to their vanity without being of material value to the Porte. Had the Sultan during recent years been assisted by disinterested and wise counsellors, the position of the country now would be very different. He had therefore banished many of the Ministers (His Majesty particularly mentioned Midhat Pasha) considering that their advice could only be pernicious in the future as it had been in the past.

I said that it was of the highest importance that the lesson taught by the past, which His Majesty had accurately described, should not now be forgotten, and that if it became the duty of His Majesty's Ministers to advise sacrifices from which His Majesty was averse, I trusted that His Majesty would remember what he had just said, and would yield.

His Majesty adverted to the financial situation, and the insuperable difficulties which it caused to reforms.

I took the opportunity to say that, with regard to Her Majesty's Government, I hoped His Majesty would not forget the favourable manner in which your Lordship had received Musurus Pasha's Project, the consideration of which had been arrested by the signature of the De Tocqueville Convention; that Convention contained defects which rendered it impossible of execution as it stood, but it conveyed to Europe the knowledge that the Porte was seriously desirous of coming to an arrangement with its creditors, and, by doing so, had rendered substantial service. It also contained the excellent principle of allowing experienced foreign administrators to manage a great part of the finances of the Empire, and I trusted that this principle might be maintained; in that case the Project would be stripped of its thorns, and the rose would remain.

His Majesty began, in a pointed manner, to tell me that this was a country of intrigue, that stories were set about without any foundation for the purpose of producing mistrust and ill-will towards his Ministers, and that he hoped I would give no credence to them; that on hearing malevolent rumours the proper course for me was to go to his Grand Vizier, and that I might depend upon learning the truth from him. His Majesty had appointed him on account of his independence, and the feeling that he could have

no motive in serving His Majesty but the welfare of the Empire, and he attached much importance to his having no ties here which often bound Ministers to advance the interests of those who had assisted them in their political career.

He trusted that his Grand Vizier had secured the confidence of the Powers.

I replied that his Highness enjoyed our confidence, that if at the present moment His Majesty harboured the intention of changing him there was no question that it would be considered a most dangerous step. The country was passing through a crisis, during which the Grand Vizier had shown great energy. If he were to fall the friends of the Empire would be stricken with the profoundest alarm. It was not too much to say that the existence of the Empire was considered to a great extent to depend upon the maintenance in office of the present Grand Vizier.

His Majesty replied that he had no intention of making any change.

When the Sultan rose the Grand Vizier went towards the door, and I took the opportunity to say apart to His Majesty that, reverting to the question of Eastern Roumelia, I was commanded to state to His Majesty that everything depended upon a strong force being ready, and that if the force was not ready the responsibility must rest with His Majesty's Minister of War, in whose administrative capacity we had no confidence.

His Majesty took up the remark immediately, and calling back the Grand Vizier, requested me to repeat to his Highness what I had just said, and he requested his Highness to pay attention to it.

The Grand Vizier subsequently thanked me warmly for what he was good enough to term the excellent advice which I had given to His Majesty, and he said that he was grateful for the encouraging words which I had addressed to His Majesty regarding himself, which could not fail to be of material service to him.

I said to his Highness that I had said very exactly what I thought, now that I had received his assurance that he had not any intention of making away with the Island of Crete, or any other island, by a secret negotiation.

I presume that the Sultan's pointed remarks with reference to intrigues at Constantinople were connected with this incident.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 34.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 250.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 19, 1879.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 293 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to state that I communicated to the Porte on the 8th instant the contents of Mr. Green's despatch No. 34 relative to the return of the Montenegrin Mussulman refugees to their homes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 35.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 252. Secret.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 20, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 230 of the 13th instant, I am inclined to think that the report concerning negotiations for the cession of Crete to France was part of a plot concocted between Said Pasha, Minister of Justice, and Sawas Pasha, Minister of Public Works, to destroy confidence in the Grand Vizier. I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a very curious paper which has been sent to me secretly, and which appears to me to be intended to complete the mistrust which the other statement was calculated to sow. The gaps in the sentences are in the original.

Having read it, I begged the person who gave it to me to say to those from whom he had it that I did not believe the statements in it to be true, that I considered the Grand Vizier's maintenance in office necessary to the welfare of the Empire, and that it would be my policy, as far as possible, to act with M. Fournier on every occasion where the common interests of England and France permitted it.

I have since informed M. Fournier of the attempts which have been made to produce bad blood between us. His Excellency said I should have come straight to him about Crete. I said I held that I ought not to have done so. In the first place, in case the report were well founded, I did not wish to put him in the dilemma of saying to me what was not true; and, in the second place, it was my duty to address myself to the Grand Vizier, as the head of the Government, to prevent the transaction.

I also brought to his Excellency's notice another matter. I placed in his hand a paper, which I have the honour to inclose herewith, and said that I had been told that it had been sent by him to the Sultan as a programme of the policy of Her Majesty's Government. M. Fournier denied it absolutely. He said the paper had come into his hands, and that he had given it to M. Chevalier, the correspondent of the "Débats," but that was all.

His Excellency said he was very glad of the explanations which had passed between us, and that, for his part, he considered that England and France should go hand in hand in their policy in the East, but a long conversation did not show that there was a harmony of views between us as to the manner in which the full execution of the Treaty of Berlin, which we both desired, should be brought about.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 35.

Memorandum.

(Secret.)

LE Sultan en destituant Salvet Pacha qui était réputé comme partisan de la politique Anglaise n'était point mû par un sentiment hostile à l'Angleterre, il y a été déterminé par des raisons de securité personnelles. Néanmoins l'amitié de longue durée que Sa Majesté avait professée envers ce pays, subissait une sorte de réaction que les détracteurs de Salvet ont eu soin de fortifier en lui reprochant ses complaisances serviles à l'Angleterre et en représentant l'inanité des promesses de cette Puissance dans la question financière, et ces arrières-pensées sur l'Asie Mineure. Les ennemis de l'Angleterre en Europe aidant, il s'est insensiblement formé parmi les hommes du Gouvernement et peut-être du Palais, un courant d'opinion tant peu hostile à l'Angleterre. Certes ce courant eût ensuite disparu en peu de temps, moyennant réflexion mûre, s'il n'avait pas été à dessein ravivé pour servir à un but politique qui ne visait qu'à démolir et à détruire la position et l'influence de l'Angleterre dans ce pays.

Ce n'est pas cette fois-ci l'Ambassade Russe qui a disputé le terrain politique à l'Angleterre; c'est l'Ambassadeur de France; on se demande si M. Fournier est autorisé par son Gouvernement dans la conduite qu'il tient depuis quelques mois, et si même ses Chefs connaissent ses menées secrètes à Constantinople. Quoiqu'il en soit, il brûlait pendant tout l'été d'une envie terrible de partir en congé, et il était même sur le point de s'embarquer lorsque la nomination de Haireddin survient et lui fait abandonner toute idée de départ. M. Fournier est un homme fort ambitieux; il se croit un esprit éminemment supérieur et le meilleur candidat de son parti pour le poste de Ministre des Affaires Etrangères. L'avénement de Haireddin au pouvoir semble lui avoir fait entrevoir l'espoir et procuré les moyens nécessaires d'atteindre, sans bouger de Constantinople, le but qu'il s'était proposé d'aller poursuivre en France au moyen d'un long congé. Partant de là il devient aisé de deviner ce à quoi tendent tous ses efforts et toutes ses menées; il recherche évidemment un succès extraordinaire et tellement éclatant que le prestige qui en résulterait l'impose à l'opinion publique de son pays et principalement à son parti, et lui facilite la possession du portefeuille de son ambition immodérée. Haireddin n'a point tenu compte des raisons pour lesquelles il a été élevé au Grand Vizirat; le Sultan espérait qu'un homme qu'il avait tiré presque du néant et comblé de tant de bienfaits et marques de faveur, lui serait tout attaché et dévoué, et veillerait à sa sécurité mieux que tous ses prédécesseurs qui, à tort ou à raison, avaient été représentés comme des intrigants, ennemis de Sa Majesté. Au lieu donc de travailler de façon à se rendre digne de la confiance de son Souverain, le Grand Vizir, dès les premiers jours de sa nomination, n'a songé qu'à consolider sa position, et à l'instar d'Aali Pacha, il a cru pouvoir s'imposer à la confiance du Sultan par le moyen de l'influence Française; c'est pourquoi il s'est immédiatement entendu avec M. Fournier, et obéissant aux suggestions de celui-ci, il a cherché, malgré les

avances amicales que Sir H. Layard lui a prodiguées, à écarter l'influence Anglaise. Haireddin voulait d'ailleurs suivre une politique différente de celle de ses prédécesseurs depuis 1870.

Haireddin et Fournier pensèrent d'abord à fortifier leur position et à acquérir des moyens d'influence; ils manigancèrent la fameuse affaire Tocqueville; ils croyaient l'un et l'autre qu'en réussissant dans cette entreprise ils substitueraient l'influence Française à celle de l'Angleterre fondée par les besoins d'argent du Gouvernement Turc et donner au Sultan une très-grande idée du savoir-faire de son nouveau Grand Vizir; on sait que le lendemain du jour où les trois Décrets ont été remis à Tocqueville, M. Fournier a partout chanté victoire, et dit ouvertement qu'il prenait sa première revanche de l'affaire de Chypre. Cela n'indiquait-il pas l'existence d'autres projets et d'autres revanches à prendre? Désespérant de réussir avec Tocqueville, Haireddin et Fournier changent de tactique et se mettent à l'œuvre avec le concours d'Alexandre Pacha pour atteindre l'objet de leur ambition par d'autres moyens. Ils effrayent le Sultan sur les dangers imminents qui menacent l'Empire en Asie et principalement en Europe du côté de Novi-Bazar et de la Roumélie Orientale; ils représentent l'Angleterre comme parfaitement d'accord avec les Puissances du Nord pour partager ses possessions; ils lui font accroire qu'on pourrait le tirer de ces embarras avec l'aide de la France, dont le Gouvernement, disent-ils, est intéressé non-seulement au maintien de l'Empire, mais encore au règne et à la gloire de Sa Majesté, et ils usent de cette tactique de terreur (d'autant plus efficace que la personne sur laquelle elle est exercée est très-accessible à la peur) d'une façon si impitoyable, que le Sultan en a été et en est malade.

Comme quelques-uns des membres du Cabinet actuel ne partagent point la façon de voir du Grand Vizir, désapprouvent la politique et critiquent ouvertement sa manière de conduire les affaires de l'État, et peuvent au besoin, gêner la liberté des mouvements de Haireddin, celui-ci, d'accord avec Fournier et Alexandre Pacha, a cherché à faire destituer ces Ministres assez audacieux qui se permettent de discuter ses opinions; il a employé en cette circonstance le même moyen de terreur en faisant remettre au Sultan, par l'entremise du Capitaine Dreyfus, une espèce de dénonciation contre ces Ministres, et où Sa Majesté est menacée d'isolement; ces derniers, étant des hommes de confiance du Sultan, ont été maintenus dans leurs postes. Haireddin, Fournier, et Alexandre Pacha, font accroire au Sultan que les questions d'Autriche, de Grèce, et de la Roumélie Orientale sont pleines de périls et grosses de dangers, et qu'on ne pourrait parvenir à les résoudre avantageusement qu'avec l'aide et la protection de la France, et que hors du concours de cette Puissance il n'y a point de salut pour la Turquie; ce concours est donc indispensable, et il faut l'acquérir à tout prix. En conséquence, M. Fournier, pour prendre sans doute sa seconde revanche de l'affaire de Chypre, et pour se faire une auriole nécessaire à l'accomplissement de ses vues d'ambition, a jugé à propos de demander à son ami Haireddin certains . . . . . .

Le Grand Vizir, comme un habile et excellent chirugien politique qu'il est, a jugé de son côté très-nécessaire, puisqu'il s'agit de sauver tout l'Empire, d'amputer un petit membre pour conserver le reste du corps sain; là-dessus on prête et on délibère, et un beau matin le monde est étonné d'apprendre telle . . . . . mais . . . . .

Il résulte de tout cela que le principe qui guide la conduite des hommes qui dirigent les affaires de la Turquie est l'intérêt personnel auquel l'intérêt de l'État est complétement subordonné. Les conséquences d'une telle conduite peuvent être aussi désastreuses pour l'Empire Ottoman que fatales pour les intérêts Anglais. On ne peut guère prévoir les perturbations qui résulteraient d'un remaniement de territoire dans une certaine partie de l'Empire au profit d'une grande Puissance. C'est pourquoi il importe tout autant au Sultan qu'à l'Angleterre qu'un homme aussi médiocre et aussi aventureux que Haireddin, dont la présence à la Porte est un danger permanent pour la Turquie et pour l'Angleterre, et la personne, une cause vivante de méfiance entre les deux pays, soit éloigné des affaires aussitôt que possible, et que les rênes de l'État soient confiées à des hommes sérieux, capables, et honnêtes, et jouissant de la confiance du Souverain.

D'après les informations qui viennent de tous les côtés, les Puissances intéressées aux questions pendantes sont très-disposées à les aplanir pacifiquement et avec esprit de modération; les hommes d'État Turcs n'ont qu'à se hâter de profiter de ces dispositions et à conjurer ainsi les dangers qu'ils redoutent.

Le défaut le plus grave du Grand Vizir actuel c'est qu'il ne connaît pas du tout la politique de la Porte avec les Puissances Européennes; il s'imagine de se

trouver à la tête des affaires Tunisiennes et de pouvoir appliquer ici le système qui lui a réussi là-bas ; c'est là un défaut impardonnable pour un Grand Vizir.

Haireddin, Fournier, et Alexandre attribuent à l'Angleterre auprès du Sultan des arrières-pensées sur l'Asie, et lui reprochent une entente intime avec l'Autriche pour la pousser à Salonique, et l'accusent de n'avoir pas fait tout son possible pour faire réussir le projet du grand emprunt et d'être indifférente à l'égard du règne du Sultan.

Si l'Angleterre considère le maintien de l'Empire Ottoman tel qu'il est reconstitué à Berlin, comme une nécessité politique, si elle veut avoir une position prépondérante à Constantinople, il faut que son Représentant se hâte d'arrêter le Gouvernement Turc sur la pente fatale où il est en train de glisser, et cela en ouvrant les yeux du Sultan. Il faut convaincre celui-ci de la fausseté de toutes les insinuations qui lui ont été faites contre elle, l'aider publiquement à se tirer d'embarras, le rassurer sur son avenir et l'assurer de l'appui et de l'assistance de l'Angleterre ; lui démontrer surtout qu'il n'est menacé présentement par aucun danger ni du côté de la frontière Grecque, ni de Novi-Bazar, ni de la Roumélie Orientale ; lui promettre le concours de l'Angleterre dans la question financière, et en faisant mention du faux bruit qui a circulé sur l'Ile de Rhodes, lui parler de la situation incertaine de la France, de la faiblesse de son Gouvernement, et de l'impuissance des hommes qui sont à la tête des affaires ; lui faire ressortir les dangers qu'une politique aventureuse dans le sens d'une cession pareille à celle qui a donné lieu au faux bruit en question, ferait naître pour l'Empire, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 35.

Notes on the Anglo-Turkish Convention.

THE importance and necessity for English interference in the administration of Government in Asia Minor is a subject which cannot be overrated, for upon it must depend not only the future welfare of the populations of that vast territory, but also the measure of England's power in the East, as estimated by the subtle judgment of our Indian subjects.

With judicious management Asia Minor may be converted into a flourishing country, offering an extensive field for British commerce, and for the revival of our torpid trade.

Every advance in the path of progress will weaken the influence and power for aggression of Russia, while it will strengthen the authority and position of England in India.

If, on the other hand, Asia Minor should be neglected by England, and left to the promises of good government made by the Sultan—promises which may be sincere, but which certainly lack the power of execution—then the country will become a prey to intrigue and corruption ; the inhabitants will be impoverished ; they will be taught by Russian agents to believe that their miseries are caused by the wilful neglect of England, while similar agents in India will point to the feebleness of our power in Asia Minor as compared with that of neighbouring Russia.

Under these circumstances the Ottoman army, which must form the chief barrier to future Russian aggression, would fall into decay amidst the general corruption, so that when the time arrives for Russia to make her next advance, an easy road would be offered for her armies, while England, if she held to the Convention with Turkey, would have to fight under every disadvantage, and with a small and demoralized Ottoman army as her only ally. These facts suggest the paramount importance of an English protectorate over Asia Minor ; but, on the very threshold of action in that direction we are met with the difficulty of accomplishing our end without interfering, in a hostile spirit, with the authority of the Sultan. It becomes plain that no useful action could be taken without the invitation and co-operation of the Sultan as a decretory coadjutor in the work of regeneration.

To obtain the consent of the Sultan and Porte to English assistance in the administration of Government is the first object to be attained, and it may, in my humble opinion, be accomplished in the following manner :—

Turkey is now not only bankrupt but impoverished by a disastrous war, which has devastated her rich and beautiful country to such an extent that, unless she can be placed in a respectable financial position, it is impossible to recover from the crushing blow received, and there is nothing to look forward to but anarchy and general corruption, followed by revolution.

To avert this imminent danger, England might offer to guarantee a loan of 30,000,000*l.* sterling at 4 per cent., receiving, as security, the Vacouf lands of Asia Minor, and such other bonds as may be deemed necessary, and coupling the guarantee with the following conditions :—

1. That for a period of twenty years the Ministers of War, of Finance, and of Customs, should be experienced English officials, appointed by the Sultan on the recommendation of the British Ambassador, and paid by the Porte.

2. That in each vilayet and sandjak in Asia Minor the "Muavin" (Deputy Governor) should be an experienced English official, appointed by the Sultan on the recommendation of the British Ambassador, and paid by the Porte.

3. That the appointments of Ottoman Governors to vilayets, sandjaks, kaimakamliks, mudirliks, together with the officials called Cadis, Defterdars, and Mektoubjes, should be made for a period of not less than five years, with prospect of reappointment if their administration should be deemed satisfactory by the Ottoman Parliament.

That the salaries of these officials should be made adequate to the responsibilities of their offices, so as to enable them to live without resorting to corruption.

That in event of proved misconduct, an official should be precluded from ever again serving the State.

There are numerous Turkish officials who would act honestly under such a rule, especially if they were associated with an English authority.

At present there is so much uncertainty as to the term of office, and the salaries given are so insignificant, that Governors have no incentive to be honest.

4. That a gendarmerie should be established throughout Asia Minor, with an English officer as Commandant, and an English officer in command at each vilayet ; such officers to be experienced in their duties, and taken from our Indian police force, appointed by the Sultan on the recommendation of the British Ambassador, and paid by the Porte.

5. That the expenditure of the loan guaranteed by Great Britain should be directed into certain channels which should be specified ; and that a Commission should be formed, consisting of Turkish and English officials, in equal numbers, for the purpose of superintending the proper and useful expenditure of the loan.

6. That an accurate financial statement of the revenue and expenditure of the Ottoman Empire should be published annually.

7. That the Imperial Iradet of 1876, granting a Constitution to Turkey, should be practically and faithfully carried out.

8. That the Imperial Ottoman army should be maintained in a thoroughly effective state, on a peace establishment of not less than 150,000 Nizams, and that the present organization for reserves should be brought into practical effect.

9. That the Imperial Ottoman Navy should be maintained in a thoroughly effective state, on a peace establishment, to be determined upon.

10. That the duty of 8 per cent. on cattle, grain, &c., passing from one Turkish port to another, should be abolished, as being detrimental to the encouragement of trade, and to the development of the natural products of the country.

11. That steps should be taken for the just and direct collection of the ashr or tithe, in order that the Porte may derive the full benefit thereof.

12. That a Commission be appointed to take into consideration an equitable arrangement of the Turkish debt.

I believe it would be perfectly possible to formulate these stipulations into an agreement which the Sultan would accept.

The existence of this agreement would immediately establish such confidence in the future good government of Turkey, that European, and especially English capital, would flow into and benefit the country. It would open up the undeveloped wealth which now lies idle, and would thus increase the revenues to a considerable extent.

The appointment of Indian officials as Assistant-Governors in Asia Minor would have this advantage—not only would they be conversant with the manner of dealing with Mahommedan races, but from their knowledge of the Persian language they would be able to communicate with the Ottoman Governors, inasmuch as Persian and Arabic form the bases of the Turkish language, and every educated Turkish gentleman understands Persian.

A loan to Turkey at a moderate rate of interest is an absolute necessity before any advance can be made in order and good government.

The maintenance of an effective army and navy is essential to the future safety of the Ottoman Empire, and, consequently, as a support to the force of Great Britain when she may be called upon to fulfil her engagements.

So far from it being unadvisable to appoint English officials to many of the administrative posts, I am fully convinced that any prospect of reform is perfectly hopeless without such aid. The appointment of numerous Consuls, to report, would be an expense to this country without any adequate result. The experiment would be a complete failure —they would be brought face to face with intriguing Consuls from Russia and other countries, and would be no match for them.

The nullity of such an attempt is acknowledged by many to whom I have mentioned it, and who are in a position to form an accurate opinion.

Turkey requires money, advice, and control, and, if she is granted the first, she will accept the second and third of these necessities.

(Signed) JAMES BAKER,
(Brother of General Baker Pasha.)

August 1878.

No. 36.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 2.)

(No. 254.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 21, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of a letter from the Armenian Patriarch on affairs at Zeitoun and Aleppo, and of the answer which I have made to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 36.

Monseigneur Nerces to Mr. Malet.

M. le Ministre, *Constantinople, le* 18 *Mars,* 1879.

DES télégrammes de Zeitoun, de Marash, et d'Alep m'apprennent que les Zeitouniens emprisonnés dans ces deux dernières localités trouvent la mort dans leurs cachots, enlevés par des maladies inconnues et privés même de l'assistance des prêtres, que l'autorité locale juge prudent de tenir à l'écart.

Ces Chrétiens ont été jetés en prison par suite d'une enquête dont le Gouvernement Turc est aujourd'hui le premier à reconnaître l'insuffisance puisqu'il s'apprête à envoyer sur les lieux des Commissaires pour une nouvelle enquête. La plupart de ces prisonniers sont des pères de familles dont l'innocence n'a été contesté que par le Vali d'Alep et le Mutessarif de Marash, désireux de dénaturer les faits dans le but de passer pour avoir dompté une insurrection en Cilicie.

Ces deux fonctionnaires permettent aux Turcs et aux Circassiens des environs de Zeitoun de dépouiller et de tuer sans merci les Arméniens qui osent sortir de chez eux.

Votre Excellence, qui représente ici une Puissance dont l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin porte la signature, ne voudra-t-elle pas intervenir auprès de la Sublime Porte, pour arrêter le bras qui menace d'exterminer l'élément Chrétien en Cilicie.

Les Puissances Européennes ont promis, par des actes solennels, de protéger les Chrétiens de la Turquie; c'est cette protection qui je prends la liberté de solliciter aujourd'hui pour une malheureuse nation qui subit le martyre dans l'intérieur de la Turquie d'Asie.

Je suis plein d'espoir que votre Excellence ne voudra pas abandonner les Chrétiens de l'Asie dans la pénible crise qu'ils traversent en ce moment, et je profite de cette occasion pour prier vote Excellence de vouloir bien agréer encore une fois l'hommage de ma plus haute considération.

(Signé) Archevêque NERCES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 36.

Mr. Malet to Monseigneur Nerces.

Monseigneur, *Constantinople, March* 19, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Beatitude's letter of yesterday, and I beg to inform you in reply that Her Majesty's Embassy has been unceasing in its efforts to ameliorate the unhappy state of affairs which forms the subject of your Beatitude's letter.

I have this day, by express instruction of Lord Salisbury, made a further communication on the subject to the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and I can assure your Beatitude that Her Majesty's Government has in this matter neither neglected its duties under the Treaty of Berlin, its claim under the Convention of the 4th June, nor those wider obligations of humanity which are incumbent on it as a Christian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

P.S.—The Vali of Aleppo has been relieved of his functions, and Omer Pasha, the General in command at Aleppo, will replace him provisionally.

E. B. M.

No. 37.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 2.)

(No. 255.)
My Lord, *Pera, March* 21, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of further despatches which I have received from Mr. Consul Henderson relative to the state of Zeitoun, and the proceedings of Kiamil Pasha in regard to the Zeitoun prisoners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 37.

Consul Henderson to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Aleppo, February* 23, 1879.

IN reply to Sir H. Layard's telegram of the 19th, I transmitted, on the 21st, a telegram, of which the following is a copy:—

"The present state of Zeitoun is deplorable. There is no security for Christian populations, as surrounding Mussulman villages are in arms against them. Vali purposely delays sending another Governor, alleging that his life would be in danger, and that to restore prestige of Government he must go there himself with troops to instal him. I believe his object to be very different. I can do nothing with him to ameliorate the condition of the prisoners. He told me he would do everything in his power to keep them in prison, as their dismissal would amount to a disapproval of his conduct in seizing them; he also said that he had succeeded in frustrating the efforts made to release them with the Grand Vizier, the Minister of Justice, and the Minister of the Interior. He now accuses Patriarch of Constantinople of having incited Zeitounli to rebel, citing Patriarch's letter to Lord Salisbury as a proof. Two more prisoners are dead.

The day I received Sir H. Layard's telegram I also received from Mr. Mardin, at Marash, a despatch, under flying seal, addressed to the Vali, giving the latest intelligence with reference to it. I inclose herewith a copy of it.

In handing it to the Vali, I used every possible effort to induce him to send a Kaïmakam there at once. He refused, and told me he would be the first Turkish official to go there himself, and that he would take a sufficient force with him to bring the Zeitounlis to their senses. Finding it impossible to persuade him to adopt this suggestion, I insisted that the prisoners should be better treated, and pointed out the cruelty of withholding from those that had died the ministrations of a priest and the last consolations of religion. He said he had gone as far as his duty would permit him; he spoke with

great warmth of the efforts being made at Constantinople to release them; he said he had left no stone unturned to keep them there, and that he had succeeded.

To-day, on receipt of another letter from Mr. Mardin (copy inclosed), I telegraphed to you in the following sense:—

"I have just received letters from Marash informing me that the state of Zeitoun is worse than I supposed; it is necessary that the new Kaïmakam should go there immediately. Could not Porte order this to be done, notwithstanding opposition of Vali? It would be desirable that one of the Commissioners should speak Armenian, provided he is not an Armenian Catholic."

I have every confidence in Mr. Mardin's letter giving an account of what is passing in Zeitoun, and I concur in opinion with him, that the burning of the bridge over the Pyramus was the work of Mussulmans.

I received information that a telegram had arrived here to-day announcing the nomination of Yusuf Bey and Costaki Effendi as Commissioners for examining the questions pending here, and as the name of the Christian members appeared to me to be that of a Greek, I added that paragraph to my telegram, suggesting the appointment of an Armenian, as it is desirable that at least one of the Commissioners should speak Armenian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 37.

Mr. Mardin to Kiamil Pasha.

United States' Consulate, Marash, February 18, 1879.

Sir,

SINCE you have several times asked me to aid you in adjusting the Zeitoun troubles and you have confided in the reports I have made you, I venture to make some additional statements, and urge you to give them earnest consideration. It is now five weeks since I went to Zeitoun, and during this time I have been in constant communication by letter and messenger with the influential men of the town and also with the robbers themselves.

I have at all times urged upon them the necessity of obedience to your commands, and have advised them to wait patiently, and to refrain from all acts of violence; till you were able to adjust their difficulties I have made diligent inquiries, and I cannot learn that they have committed a robbery or given trouble in any way since I visited them. The Kaïmakam, when here, in the presence of several Government officials, stated to me that the people had given him no trouble since the visit to the place.

You are aware that the winter store of food of the Zeitoundis was largely consumed by the troops when there in the autumn. During the winter, on account of the political disturbances, all business has been suspended, while the roads leading out of Zeitoun are in the hands of Moslem robbers, and no provisions can be brought into the town. Starvation surely threatens the innocent as well as the guilty in the near future. I cannot learn that any Moslem robber has been punished for any outrage on the people of Zeitoun or its villages, and it seems that it is understood by all the Moslem villages that they can with impunity rob or insult a Zeitoundi whenever they meet him. Reports, that must be believed, come almost every day of some new outrage, and though frequent complaints are made to the Marash Government, I cannot learn that the robbers are punished. A few days ago, in broad daylight, an hour and a-half from Marash, five men from a village of Zeitoun were robbed by Circassians. After much pleading and plenty of time had elapsed for the robbers to escape, the Government was induced to send out a body of zaptiehs.

A single Circassian was arrested and imprisoned; when his associates, with their daggers in hand, attacked the officer in charge in the Palace, and threatened to kill him if the prisoner was not at once released. It was suddenly found that there was some informality in the manner of his imprisonment, and on this pretext he was forthwith set at liberty.

I am greatly troubled that the Government here is unable to protect those whom I am urging so hard to be patient, and put their trust in the Government soon righting their wrongs.

In your recent note you requested me to use my influence to open the way for the Kaïmakam to leave Zeitoun. I immediately addressed letters to the Zeitoun people, to the robbers, and to the Kaïmakam himself, and the result was that he and his family were

at once sent in peace and safety to Marash. The Muleteers, on this side of the river, were in great fear of the robbers, but trusting that I could protect them they came. On their return, a week ago last Saturday morning, they were attacked by a party of robbers from the village of Bashauli, and stripped and robbed.

Since these men were assisting once in executing your commands, I have felt that it belongs to me to see that no harm comes to them, but before reporting the affair to your Excellency, I deemed it proper to inform the Government here. I therefore presented a formal Erzouhal to the Vekil of the Mutessarif, in which I have demanded that the goods be returned to their owners and the robbers be punished. I have also made known to the Government the names of the well-known robbers of Bashauli, and I cannot be satisfied with anything short of their actual punishment. Such an example would also have a great influence in opening the road to Marash and Zeitoun.

Eleven days have passed since the robbery, and though two parties of zaptiehs have been sent out, the stolen property has not been restored nor the robbers been punished. I therefore bring the whole matter to your Excellency's notice, and await your decision.

Mrs. Christie, who recently had the honour of an interview with you at Aleppo, brought word that you requested me to find a Christian to act as your Agent at Zeitoun until a Kaïmakam could be sent there. We found Jophal Oghlou Garabet Aga, of Marash, and at once reported to your Excellency by telegraph. If you would appoint him as you proposed, even for a single week, it would give great satisfaction to the people of Zeitoun, and assure them of your friendly interest in their welfare. He could also give you truthful accounts of Zeitoun affairs. We are surprised that he has received no appointment while no explanation has reached us.

I can but again repeat my firm conviction, that if a suitable Governor goes to Zeitoun and performs his duties of his office with kindness and justice to all parties there will be no trouble.

It certainly speaks well for these 10,000 rough mountaineers, that without a Governor, a policeman, or a prison, they have refrained from any violation of the peace these past weeks, and with wonderful patience have endured the robberies and insults of the neighbouring villages without retaliation, when they could so easily, if they wished, destroy every one of them.

They stand in very trying circumstances, and I know not how long they can be persuaded to bear it. They tell me they do so because I advised it. I still most earnestly advise them to do so, but it is hard to tell a man to stand still and be robbed.

I cannot urge too strongly the importance of establishing a new Government at once at Zeitoun, or, at least, the appointment of an Agent to represent the Government, and, in the second place, I wish to urge the propriety of a special order for opening the roads leading out of Zeitoun.

I must speak a word also in behalf of the poor prisoners in Marash and Aleppo, so many of whom are not even accused of any personal crime. Seven have died already. I have cheered them with the hope that a day of deliverance is near at hand, and have assured them that your Excellency had plans for mercy and justice towards them. Is it possible in any of these matters to do a special favour to the Zeitoundis and thereby win their confidence, and convince them that the Government is truly a friend and seeking the good of the people.

Such an act, just at this time, would have great influence at Zeitoun, and open the way for a speedy solution of the difficulties there. If any entreaty of mine could secure such a favour for them, I would consider it an ample reward for all my time and trouble. There is serious danger that if the present state of things continues the rough men of Zeitoun will ere long cease to listen to the advice they now receive, and in despair of protection from their enemies return to their former evil ways.

I will gladly do all I can to keep them quiet, while I beg you to hasten your plans for their relief.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. MARDIN,
Acting American Vice-Consul.

Inclosure 3 in No. 37.

Mr. Mardin to Consul Henderson.

Sir, *United States' Consular Agency, Marash, February 22, 1879.*

I INCLOSE to you an "Erzoubal" from the people of Zeitoun, signed by a large number of their most prominent and reliable men. It is written in Turkish with Armenian letters, and I have thought best to send it just as it is, and will give you briefly the substance of its contents.

They express, in many words and very strong language, their gratitude for what you are doing for them, and narrate somewhat at length six instances of gross insult and robbery by their Moslem neighbours, and plead for protection. The fact simply is, that the 10,000 Christians of the Zeitoun district are at the mercy of the human wolves that surround them on every side.

Had not the Vali disarmed them they could very easily dispose of their enemies, but now none of their so-called "robbers" have weapons, and they have made a solemn promise to remain quiet at home.

Within a few days I have learnt on credible evidence that one Zeitouni was found in a band of robbers that plundered a caravan from Albistan, and I have just heard that the Jehun bridge has been burned.

Of course each party claims that the other burned it, but a Moslem who lives near the bridge states that in his judgment it was not the work of the Zeitounli.

This delay in adjusting matters is almost certain to result in some disturbance that will be made the pretext for again sending an army to Zeitoun. It seems to me very probable that the Moslems, unable to worry the Zeitounlis into an attack on their villages, have burned the bridge, and then charged it upon the Zeitounli.

A few days ago a company of Zeitounli, in their despair at the long delay and the neglect of the Marash Government to protect them, set out to attack a Moslem village that had become particularly obnoxious, when this robber chief, Babbek, by his own personal efforts, caused them to abandon their purpose!

24th.—A note has just come from the leading man of the Protestants, whose word is believed by all parties, stating that Bashanli (Moslem) robbers sent word to an Alabashli Vartin (Christian) to come to their village and receive back the property they had stolen from him. He came and received part of it, and then on his return was waylaid and murdered by the Bashanlis, who, fearing an attack afterwards from the Alabashlis, burned the bridge to prevent them from crossing it, while at the same time it furnishes a fine pretext for an accusation against the Zeitounli.

The zaptiehs who were sent out to look up the men who robbed the Muleteers who brought down the Kaïmakam to Marash have returned, and they report that they found one of the robbers, and he was unwell, and they left him.

I see in the present state of things here no hope whatever of securing the punishment of a Moslem for outrages on Christians (and we are all looking earnestly to you to correct these abuses).

Is the Kaïmakam of Zeitoun to go unpunished, and is the Mutessarif of Marash to return?

I am, &c.
(Signed) HENRY MARDIN.

Inclosure 4 in No. 37.

Consul Henderson to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Aleppo, March 5, 1879.*

I HAD the honour to receive your Excellency's telegram of to-day's date, informing me of the dismissal of the Governor-General, and the assertion of the Grand Vizier that the prisoners are accused of burning Turkish authorities alive, and that therefore he cannot release them.

My Italian colleague happened to be visiting me when I received the telegram, and I asked him if he had even heard of such an accusation. He said it was utterly false, as such an outrage could never have happened without its being known throughout the country. I sent to my French colleague and received a similar reply, and both authorized me to use their names in protesting against this unfounded accusation, and in giving it an emphatic denial. If the Porte would furnish me with the names of the officials supposed to have been burnt, and the date and place where this outrage was supposed to have been committed, I will pledge myself to prove the accusation to be a falsehood.

I at once telegraphed to you that the accusation that the prisoners burnt Turkish authorities is absolutely false. My French and Italian colleagues authorize me to protest against such an unfounded accusation. Would Grand Vizier give name and date?

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

No. 38.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 256. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Pera, March 21, 1879.*

ON communicating to the Grand Vizier your Lordship's telegram of the 18th instant regarding Aleppo and Zeitoun, his Highness informed me that he had done his best to obtain the Imperial Iradé confirming the decision of the Council for the recall of Kiamil Pasha, but that counter-intrigues were at work at the Palace, and that he was very glad of your Lordship's message, as it would no doubt have more effect with the Sultan than his own efforts.

He begged me, however, to make a memorandum, and to suppress in it the words "Grand Vizier's promise," which he thought might produce a bad effect upon His Majesty, to whom he would communicate the memorandum immediately.

His Highness went on to say that he was opposed and thwarted in every direction by his own Ministers, and that His Majesty's refusal to give the order must be attributed to this cause, as the question of the dismissal of Kiamil Pasha had encountered strong opposition in the Council, where his Excellency had been warmly supported. His Highness said that the difficulties he met with were almost insuperable, and that he really did not know how to continue.

I asked his Highness why he did not get rid of all the Ministers who were opposed to him, and form a Cabinet which would obey him, as it was not worth while to be Grand Vizier if he could not obtain the execution of his orders and of his general policy.

His Highness said that certainly it must come to this, and that he intended later on to represent the situation to His Majesty, but that for the moment he must try and manage matters as best he could. He spoke with great despair of the prospects of the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 39.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 257.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 21, 1879.*

I HAD, on the 19th instant, the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram of the previous day, instructing me to insist very earnestly on the promises of the Grand Vizier with regard to the Vali of Aleppo and Zeitoun being fulfilled. I had not relaxed my efforts to obtain the fulfilment of these promises, and the Grand Vizier had assured me that he could not understand why the Imperial Iradé confirming the decision of the Council for the recall of the Vali of Aleppo had not been issued. When I went to His Highness to communicate your Lordship's message, he said that he had remained at the Palace till one o'clock on the evening of the 17th instant, after I had spoken to him, to endeavour to obtain the order without success. He begged me to make a Memorandum on the subject, and stated that he would have it conveyed at once to the Palace.

I said to his Highness that I was sure the Sultan did not know the real state of affairs; that His Majesty must think that the dismissal of the Vali of Aleppo was similar to dozens of other dismissals, authorized to make way for some new candidate; that His Majesty could not know that the lives of the Christian prisoners were in jeopardy, and the loyalty of a large section of the Armenian nation seriously affected through his retention in office.

In accordance with his Highness' request I immediately afterwards drew up a Memorandum, and gave it to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. It was in the following terms:—

"Lord Salisbury me prescrit d'insister très-sérieusement auprès de la Porte pour que la révocation du Vali d'Alep, déjà décidée par le Conseil, soit mise en exécution et que la Commission d'Enquête parte immédiatement. Lord Salisbury dit qu'il sera obligé de soumettre l'affaire au Parlement et qu'alors toute l'indignation du peuple Anglais contre la mauvaise administration du Gouvernement Ottoman se renouvellera.

"Les malheureux Chrétiens emprisonnés par Kiamil Pacha continuent à mourir; seize ont déjà succombé au mauvais traitement qu'ils subissent. Cette affaire peut devenir aussi grave pour l'Empire que les troubles en Roumélie avant la guerre."

I added the last part in order that His Majesty might learn the gravity of the situation, with which his Ministers had perhaps not ventured to acquaint him.

I had the satisfaction to receive last night from the Porte an unofficial announcement that the Vali has been relieved of his functions, and that Omer Pasha will take charge of the vilayet provisionally.

Omer Pasha is the General in command at Aleppo, and Consul Henderson has informed me that during the absence of the Vali at Zeitoun the temporary administration at Aleppo was carried on by him in an able and energetic manner. The arrangement is in accordance with a request made by me to the Porte.

I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a note on the subject of these affairs, addressed by the French Ambassador, M. Fournier, to the Sublime Porte, on the 19th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 39.

Memorandum.

Le rappel de Kiamil Pacha officiellement annoncé, la nomination de deux Commissaires, Ghalib Pacha et Nouriau Effendi, chargés de se rendre à Alep avec ordre d'y examiner les griefs élevés contre les sujets Chrétiens du Zeitoun emprisonnés, pouvaient faire espérer qu'il serait bientôt apporté un certain soulagement à leur situation.

Il était également permis de supposer, à la suite des assurances réitérées du Gouvernement Ottoman, que le départ des Commissaires ne serait pas plus longtemps retardé, leur seule présence à Alep semblant devoir puissamment contribuer à faire renaître l'ordre et la tranquillité au sein de populations profondément troublées.

Les espérances ne sont pas réalisées; de nouveau et sûrs renseignements confirment les craintes déjà exprimées sur la sécurité et la vie des prisonniers Chrétiens du Zeitoun.

A Zeitoun, à Marash, à Alep, un certain nombre de ces infortunés auraient déjà trouvé la mort dans leurs cachots, sans qu'il leur ait été permis de recevoir les secours de la religion à leurs derniers moments, sans qu'il ait été possible de savoir à quelle maladie ils avaient succombé.

Ces Chrétiens cependant ont été emprisonnés à la suite d'une enquête dont le Gouvernement Impérial, lui-même, semblait disposé à reconnaître tout l'insuffisance. La plupart d'entre eux sont des pères dont l'innocence n'a été contestée que par le Vali d'Alep et le Mutessarif de Marash, tous deux particulièrement intéressés à dénaturer les faits, à faire supposer qu'ils ont su étouffer une insurrection.

Pendant ce temps, les sujets Musulmans, Turcs, et Circassiens des environs de Zeitoun continuent impunément à dépouiller et à massacrer les Arméniens qui osent quitter leurs demeures.

De nouveaux troubles, une nouvelle effusion de sang sont à craindre. La Porte, il est vrai, pourrait prévenir ce danger, en donnant aux populations Chrétiennes la preuve qu'elle ne les laissera plus impunément être opprimées.

Mais on assure au contraire que le Vali n'aurait même point encore été informé de son rappel, qu'il trouverait un puissant concours en haut lieu, et qu'il prétend n'avoir rien à redouter de personne avec cette protection.

Il avait été assuré, et y a six semaines, à l'Ambassadeur de France, que Kiamil Pacha était rappelé. Une note de l'Ambassade, en date du 8 de ce mois, est jusqu'ici sans réponse.

Il importe cependant que la Porte fasse rendre justice à ses sujets non-Musulmans du Zeitoun, et que, par de sages mesures concertées avec les populations Chrétiennes de ses

contrées, elle leur assure un avenir de paix et de liberté ainsi qu'elle en a pris l'engagement formel envers l'Europe.

Péra, le 19 Mars, 1879.

No. 40.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 258.)
My Lord, *Pera, March 21, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a paper drawn up by Assim Pasha, Ottoman Commissioner for Eastern Roumelia, on the proceedings of the Commission. The Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that it was intended to be a speech to the Commission, but that as the work has lately been got through with more speed, it had been decided only to make use of it as the foundation of a Circular despatch to Ottoman Representatives abroad.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 40.

Paper drawn up by Assim Pasha on Proceedings of the Eastern Roumelian Commission.

Messieurs,

CONFORMÉMENT aux Articles XVIII et XIX du Traité de Berlin la Commission Européenne s'est réunie le $\frac{15}{27}$ Septembre pour élaborer, d'abord avec la Porte, l'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale et pour administrer, d'accord aussi avec la Porte, les finances de la province jusqu'à l'achèvement de la nouvelle organisation.

Cinq mois se sont passés depuis notre première séance et non-seulement l'élaboration du Statut Organique n'est pas achevée, mais il nous est impossible même de prévoir le terme de nos travaux. Les résultats de notre mandat financier ne sont guère plus satisfaisants, puisque jusqu'ici nous n'avons pas encore réussis à obtenir la remise complète de l'Administration Financière du département de Slivno.

Cette situation regrettable pouvant faire surgir l'idée que nous négligeons notre double mission, nous croyons, quant à nous, absolument nécessaire de mettre à couvert notre responsabilité. En conséquence nous croyons devoir récapituler ce qui a été fait par la Commission Européenne jusqu'aujourd'hui, énumérant en résumé les causes qui ont mis des entraves à nos travaux.

Les retards survenus peuvent avoir des conséquences si funestes pour l'avenir du pays et peut-être pour le repos de l'Europe que vous nous excuserez si nous attirons sur eux votre sérieuse attention. Pénétrés du besoin d'éclairer l'opinion publique sur la part de responsabilité qui pourrait retomber sur chacun de nous, vous nous permettrez, Messieurs, d'établir ici les vraies causes de ces retards.

Quels en sont les auteurs? A qui doivent-ils être attribués? Vous ne sauriez nous accuser de parti pris si, répondant à cette question, nous ne dissimulons pas plus longtemps que d'après nous ces lenteurs dont nous nous sommes plaints à différentes reprises, et dont nous déclarons catégoriquement ne vouloir nullement assumer la responsabilité, proviennent en premier lieu du fait de l'opposition de MM. les Commissaires de Russie contre tous les actes de la Commission; et, en second lieu, des difficultés sans nombre créées par les autorités locales à notre Administration Financière.

Examinons le premier point, savoir, l'opposition de MM. les Commissaires de Russie.

Cette opposition se manifeste sous deux faces: (1) dans l'élaboration du Statut Organique; (2) dans la question financière.

En commençant par étudier cette opposition dans l'élaboration du Statut Organique nous ne parlerons pas du refus de MM. les Commissaires de Russie d'obtempérer au désir de la Commission, qui les prie de vouloir bien collaborer à l'instar de leurs collègues à la confection d'un ou de deux Chapitres du programme de M. de Kallay, refus dont nous ne cherchons pas les motifs, nous ne nous étendrons pas sur les objections soulevées par eux contre la forme ou la rédaction de chacun des Articles passés sous leurs yeux, nous ne rappellerons pas enfin ni les nombreuses séances privées dont le seul but était de les rallier à l'opinion de la majorité, ni les nombreuses concessions qui leur ont été faites par tous leurs collègues dans chacune de ces séances; nous nous contenterons de rappeler leur

conduite dans certaines discussions d'une longueur démésurée où ils ont mis à nu certaines de leurs opinions sur l'administration future de la province.

Les débats sur les Articles 5, 6, 7, 10 et 21 du Chapitre I, nous sont encore présents à l'esprit. On n'a pas pu oublié leur proposition tendant à défendre aux Musulmans non indigènes le séjour de la Roumélie, ni leur refus d'accepter l'alinéa qui stipulait que la milice pût renforcer les troupes Ottomanes, en cas de guerre, alinéa dont la teneur n'était qu'une reproduction exacte des paroles du Prince Bismarck au Congrès de Berlin. Vous vous souvenez aussi des longues discussions que la question de la nomination des Directeurs par le Sultan à entraînées de la proposition du Prince Tzeretelew de confier les postes des Directeurs à des fonctionnaires élus, comme si dans aucun pays la population choisissait les Chefs des différentes branches de l'Administration.

En voulant préjuger la formation de l'Assemblée Provinciale, et en cherchant à remplacer la sanction du Souverain par la sanction du Gouvernement Impérial, comme si le Chef d'une Administration quelconque pouvait avoir le droit de sanctionner, les Commissaires de Russie ont également fait perdre un temps précieux à la Commission, mais là où ils firent preuve de la plus grande obstination, c'est dans la discussion de l'Article 21, sur l'emploi des trois langues—Turque, Bulgare, et Grecque. Qui d'entre nous ne se souvient des amendements successifs que cet Article a subis? Remis puis repris pour être de nouveau manié et remanié, il a fini enfin par obtenir leur adhésion, mais nous savons tous à quel prix.

Si nous ne parlons pas ici des discussions provoquées par les Chapitres II, III, et IV, c'est que ces discussions ayant eu lieu dans des séances privées, ne se trouvent pas reproduites dans les Protocoles.

Mais nous ne saurions passer sous silence les débats provoqués par le Chapitre V; MM. les Délégués de Russie ont fait preuve dans la discussion de ce Chapitre d'un si grand mépris des droits des minorités, bien qu'en adoptant le programme de M. de Kallay, la Commission se soit engagée, tout en tenant compte des droits légitimes de la majorité, de veiller à ce que ceux des minorités soient également sauvegardés.

Nous n'énumérerons pas ici les séances privées, ni les amendements multiples apportés aux différents Articles, ni les concessions sans nombre que nous tous avons dû faire pour arriver à une entente. Il nous suffira de rappeler que depuis un mois ce Chapitre a été déposé, et la Commission n'a pas encore réussi à l'adopter. Non-seulement les Articles 1, 7, 29, 30, 37, 38, et 41 restent ouverts, mais il n'a été possible de mettre un terme à la discussion de ce Chapitre qu'hier seulement. Vainement en vue d'arriver à une entente a-t-on changé et rechangé les amendements, tout a été inutile; les arguments les plus sérieux ont été repoussés. Mais pourquoi nous étendre d'avantage? Tous ces faits sont encore récents et présents à notre mémoire; qu'il nous suffise de dire que dans ce résumé nous n'avons énoncé que les objections les plus vives, celles qui ont amené des retards regrettables. Nous avons dû, craignant d'être trop longs, passer sous silence une foule d'incidents qui auraient pu donner un caractère d'exagération ou de parti pris à cet aperçu. Si nous avions voulu énumérer tous les Articles qui ont soulevé des objections de leur part, nous aurions été obligés, nous le répétons, de mentionner presque tous les Articles revus jusqu'ici par la Commission. Mais, pourquoi abuser de votre attention?

Aussi nous nous arrêtons sur les faits de l'opposition au Statut Organique pour passer au second point, savoir, l'opposition de MM. les Commissaires de Russie dans la question financière. Rappelons en premier lieu les difficiles négociations qui ont eu lieu pendant nos séances à Constantinople. Au bout de cinq séances après maintes concessions dont les Protocoles ne parlent pas, il est vrai, la Commission parvint à leur faire adopter la résolution du $\frac{5}{17}$ Octobre, qui n'a pas encore été entièrement exécutée. Si la responsabilité de l'inapplication complète de cette résolution doit, dans un sens pratique, retomber sur les autorités locales, elle doit aussi peser en partie sur MM. les Commissaires de Russie, qui en ont combattu la publication avec la persévérance dont on se souvient.

Enumérons, aussi brièvement que possible, les autres points concernant les finances, dont seuls ils doivent être considérés comme responsables.

1. Leur refus réitéré d'accepter dans certaines circonstances l'urgence demandée par le Comité des Finances.

2. Leur refus d'accepter la motion de M. le Commissaire Adjoint de France, présentée le $\frac{5}{17}$ Novembre, demandant, pour faciliter la marche de nos travaux, que la Commission décidât qu'à l'avenir le vote de la majorité ferait loi dans toutes les discussions étrangères à l'élaboration du Statut.

3. Enfin leur vote contre la motion de M. de Kallay déposée dans la séance du $\frac{12}{24}$ Janvier, tendant à signaler aux Cabinets la situation financière et à les prier d'aviser aux moyens de rendre possible la complète exécution de l'Article XIX.

Il nous reste, Messieurs, à vous entretenir de la seconde cause des lenteurs des

travaux de la Commission, c'est-à-dire des difficultés créées par les autorités locales à notre Administration Financière, difficultés à l'aplanissement desquelles nous avons consacré plus de sept séances spéciales, sans compter les longues discussions qu'elles ont provoquées dans la plupart de nos séances ordinaires.

Nous ne voulons pas ici vous parler des difficultés indirectes qui nous sont créées par ces autorités; nous ne vous parlerons pas de l'armement général de la population—armement dont nous ne cherchons pas à dévoiler les raisons; nous ne vous parlerons pas du langage violent et irrévérencieux de la "Maritza," ni des cris de résistance contre le Traité de Berlin poussés journellement par cette feuille, le Prince Tzeretelew ayant déclaré dans une de nos séances que ce journal qui sert d'organe aux autorités Russes pour la publication d'avis officiels n'avait aucun rapport avec ces mêmes autorités; nous ne vous parlerons pas non plus des élections de Députés choisis par la Roumélie Orientale pour aller à Tirnovo, son Excellence le Général Stolipine ayant déclaré qu'il considérait ces élus comme de simples touristes; nous ne vous parlerons même pas du contrat Maréchal, MM. les Commissaires de Russie ayant contesté à la Commission le droit de s'occuper de ce contrat qui, bien qu'ayant eu lieu après nos réunions de Constantinople, est d'une date antérieure à notre résolution du $\frac{5}{17}$ Octobre.

Nous voulons seulement constater que cette résolution qui nous a tant coûté, n'a pas encore été exécutée entièrement dans les deux départements de la province.

Jusqu'aujourd'hui l'Administration Financière de Slivno reste en partie entre les mains des autorités de cette ville, qui ne veulent pas nous la céder entièrement.

Depuis l'incident de Yéni-Zaghra depuis les démonstrations de la population dans cette ville contre notre Directeur-Général des Finances et le Délégué du Comité, démonstrations que les autorités Russes déclarèrent ne pas pouvoir empêcher, aucune des Caisses de ce département ne nous a été remise de fait.

Vainement M. Schmidt depuis lors a adressé à Slivno lettres sur lettres, a envoyé courrier après courrier, la Commission n'en a guère été plus avancée.

On a répondu à notre Directeur-Général soit par des promesses évasives, soit par des refus catégoriques.

Il est vrai que tout dernièrement encore, voyant la coupe prête à déborder, on a eu l'air de s'exécuter, mais on n'a pas songé à le faire sérieusement ni sincèrement, puisqu'après quatre mois de négociations notre Administration des Finances n'a réussi à obtenir que les états incomplets ne pouvant nous servir de base de renseignements que pour les dépenses.

Avons-nous été plus heureux dans le District de Philippopoli? Oui, dans un certain sens, car malgré l'incident fâcheux de Hasskeuï, nous avons réussi à prendre possession de certaines Caisses. Inutile de vous rappeler au prix de quelles difficultés; on n'a pas encore oublié les retards apportés dans la consignation de la Caisse de la ville de Philippopoli; on se souvient qu'après avoir fixé le jour de cette consignation dans une lettre officielle on la recula de quarante-huit heures pour opérer pendant cette intervalle des paiements importants.

Vous savez aussi, Messieurs, que jusqu'aujourd'hui le Gouvernement de Philippopoli refuse de remettre à notre Directeur-Général les sommes rentrées conditionnellement des biens de fugitifs Musulmans et conservées dans les Caisses spéciales, comme aussi de lui reconnaître aucune autorité sur les Caisses municipales.

Rappellerons-nous ici les difficultés que les autorités Russes ont créées à la Commission avant de lui communiquer les matériaux dont elle avait besoin pour la confection du budget provisoire de la province, matériaux qui, du reste, ne nous ont été transmis qu'après quatre mois de négociations et dans un état très-incomplet!

Vous parlerons-nous des promesses formelles faites par ces mêmes autorités soit pour la consignation des Caisses, soit pour la remise des ces archives, promesses qui n'ont jamais été tenues? Ou bien des derniers événements de Hasskeuï et de Tchirpan, et des désordres survenus dans ces deux localités et des molestations auxquelles ont été en butte les employés de notre Administration Financière.

Vous rappellerons-nous la dernière lettre de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général qui soulève des doutes sur l'étendu de notre mandat financier si clairement défini dans l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin, ou le refus récent de MM. les Commissaires de Russie, de discuter le Chapitre sur la Gendarmerie? Le besoin d'être bref nous oblige de nous taire là-dessus.

Obéissant au même besoin, nous nous tairons aussi sur les entraves créées soit par les mêmes autorités, soit par MM. les Commissaires de Russie, au sujet des pétitions qui nous ont été présentées par la population; notre but, en résumant tous ces faits, étant, non pas de soulever de vaines récriminations, mais bien d'attirer votre sérieuse attention sur les conséquences fâcheuses qui pourraient résulter de l'Etat actuel des choses.

Aussi, nous terminons en vous priant de signaler aux Cabinets dont vous êtes les

Représentants, les dangers de la situation et les suites funestes qui doivent fatalement découler de la marche lente de nos travaux.

No. 41.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 261.)

Constantinople, March 21, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Adrianople and the British Vice-Consul at Bourgas respecting the Russian evacuation and the re-establishment of the Ottoman authorities in their districts.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 41.

Acting Consul Calvert to Mr. Malet.

Adrianople, March 13, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's cyphered telegrams of the 8th and 9th instant, which were delivered to me by the Russian Telegraph Office this morning only. I received at the same time (10 A.M.) your cyphered telegram of noon yesterday viâ Odessa.

In reply to the inquiry contained in the first of these, I beg to state that Reouf Pasha informs me that Kirk-Kilissé is to be occupied on the 15th instant, and evacuated by the Russians the same day.

The Vali has given me the following farther items of information:—

The administration of the province was formally made over to Reouf Pasha to-day by the Russian Governor. The Vali and his official staff will move into the konak to-morrow, and Monday, the 17th instant, is the date fixed for the withdrawal of General Skobeleff from Adrianople with the reserve under his command.

The evacuation meanwhile is proceeding as rapidly as possible everywhere. Onzoun-Keupry has been evacuated and occupied to-day, and the whole country beyond, including the Demotica district, is now, the Vali assures me, completely free from Russian troops.

Reouf Pasha has received satisfactory accounts respecting the attitude of the Rhodope mountaineers. As regards this side of the border, the Kaïmakam of Ortakioï, a Turk, seconded by a Greek Assistant Governor, who has accompanied him to his post, has succeeded in calming the apprehensions of the inhabitants of that and the neighbouring Christian villages, and in inducing them to remain at their homes.

The Mutessarif of Kirk-Kilissé, who proceeded to his post some days ago, reports that all is quiet in those parts, and that few or none of the Christians are emigrating. A different account has, however, reached me from two independent sources of some weight, and which agree in representing the exodus there to be on a very great scale. One of these statements specifies twenty-nine villages out of the thirty-one contained in the district as being partially or wholly abandoned, the two exceptions being Greek villages, and the rest mostly Bulgarian. In the town of Kirk-Kilissé itself, the movement is reported to be comparatively insignificant. The other statement has been made to me by a Turkish gendarme, just returned from a tour on duty through the district. This informant says that the movement is known to be fostered, though not openly, by the Russians, who facilitate the departure of the emigrants in every possible way, and have taken an exact cadastre of all their real property, and even of the seed now in the ground, as a measure of the indemnification to be accorded them when they reach their new homes.

The state of things has become very unsatisfactory as regards the Mussulman population in the parts further north. When I called on Reouf Pasha to-day he was receiving a deputation of Turkish peasants from several of the villages that were simultaneously attacked by the Bulgarians last August on the temporary withdrawal of the Russian troops quartered in them. These villages lie near the Roumelian border and on both sides of it. So far, the Turks have received this time only abuse, threats, and a certain measure of bodily ill-usage, but they fear that it is but the prelude to a renewal of the former scenes. That apprehension is borne out by the actual state of the neighbouring

district of Yeni-Zaghra, from which all the Turkish inhabitants who are able are now flying. Forty or fifty families have already come away by rail from Smavli, Kaïmakli, and Kespith. The fugitives relate that the Bulgarians in those parts have again broken out against the Mussulmans, and that bloodshed, outrages, and robbery, accompanied by torture and mutilation, have become the order of the day. At Smavli, they say, the houses were broken into, one young man was shot, and several of the inhabitants tortured with hot irons applied to their feet. At Azapli, 25 liras were extorted from a Turk, but not until he had been so badly beaten that he is since dead. A lad at the same village had his teeth broken with a stone whilst defending himself from outrage. At Kaïmakli, among the persons plundered was the Hodja (Turkish priest) of the village. He was wounded on the foot with a sword. At Aleposun, a well-to-do Turk and all his family, consisting of four persons, have been tortured with hot irons applied to their necks, for the purpose of robbery. The Bulgarians ended by cutting off the hands of the father, an old man named Ismaïl Aga. They also cut off the ears and the cheeks of his son, and violated the young wife of the latter.

At Adrianople, I am happy to state, perfect tranquillity continues to prevail.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

The following particulars regarding the progress of evacuation in the direction of Kirk-Kilissé may be of interest to your Excellency. I have obtained them from the gendarme above referred to. The informant was at Bunar-Hissar on Saturday, the 8th instant, and it was occupied on that day by the Turkish troops. The Russian detachment at Bunar-Hissar, consisting of 170 cavalry, was to have left next day, retiring on Kirk-Kilissé. On Sunday, the 9th instant (when the gendarme passed through), the Russian rear-guard on the high road from Constantinople was at Havsa, which place was occupied yesterday by 120 Turkish cavalry.

E. C.

Inclosure 2 in No. 41.

Acting Consul Calvert to Mr. Malet.

Adrianople, March 14, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Reouf Pasha and the other Ottoman officials have to-day installed themselves in the Government konak and definitively entered on their administrative functions.

Redjeb Pasha, the General in command of the Turkish corps of occupation, has been appointed by the Vali President of the Civil Tribunal and of the Municipality.

The evacuation continues to be satisfactorily proceeded with, in accordance with the arrangements already reported by me to your Excellency.

There is nothing new to record to-day as regards the general situation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 41.

Acting Consul Calvert to Mr. Malet.

Adrianople, March 17, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the following further information, in sequence to that contained in my telegrams up to yesterday, relative to the Russian evacuation and the re-establishment of Ottoman authority in this province.

On his departure yesterday with the Russian Reserve, General Skobeleff was met at the outskirts of the town by an assemblage of Bulgarian townspeople and villagers, who expressed the darkest forebodings of the fate which was in store for the Christian population now that the Russian army was being withdrawn. The General replied that he would be at hand on the Roumelian border for some time to come, and told his co-religionists that if anything happened to them they were to let him know.

The fears expressed by these alarmists are certainly not justified by the attitude of the Mussulman population in the districts evacuated so far, and still less so by that of the Ottoman authorities. In the country between this and the capital the absence of

crime on the part both of Mussulmans and Christians has been quite remarkable. Against the solitary instance of a Turk who was killed near Havsa about ten days ago, there has only been that a Christian child murdered, as is supposed, by Mussulmans, a few days since at Ouzoun-Keupry. The Russian authorities and their partizans did not fail to make great capital out of this last case, and affected to believe that it was but a sample of the state of things generally prevailing.

Nothing can exceed the solicitude of Reouf Pasha and those under him for the maintenance of public tranquillity, for calming every apprehension, and for the promotion of goodwill and harmony between all sections of the people. His Excellency, during a visit which he paid me (as well as to the rest of the Consular body) yesterday, described in detail the administrative measures devised and now being carried out by him. Those measures are characterized by careful forethought and by a spirit of conciliation and largeness of sympathy which have all the more value, coming as they do from one whose sincerity is not doubted even by those disaffected to Turkish rule at large. (A fact pointing to this confidence in Reouf Pasha was cited in my despatch No. 12 of the 21st ultimo.)

The Vali's chief attention is at present devoted to the matter which most urgently claims it, that of police organization; and, in this task, it can scarcely be necessary to say his Excellency is ably and energetically seconded by Colonel Blunt.

The officers and men of the corps of gendarmerie, now in course of formation, will be drawn from every community in the province. Arrests will be effected as far as possible by gendarmes of the same race and creed as the parties arrested. A Tribunal of Police will be formed, comprising one Turkish, one Greek, one Bulgarian, one Armenian, and one Jewish member. This Tribunal, invested with the functions of a joint magistracy, will at once examine all cases of arrest, and dismiss them or send them for trial as they may judge fit.

About 100 men out of the 250 local police, lately serving under the Russians here, have already volunteered for service in the Turkish force, and others present themselves daily. It is probable that this contingent will largely require weeding; but the accepting in principle of the members of a force which has been conspicuous for its enmity towards the Mussulman population will afford the best possible proof of the willingness of the Porte to pass a sponge over all offences.

Reouf Pasha has requested the Porte to send him another whole division of troops, with an additional brigade of cavalry, to assist in the maintenance of order, more especially in the northern parts of the province. A provisional border line for Eastern Roumelia has, he tells me, been agreed upon by General Todleben and himself, roughly corresponding with that laid down by the Treaty of Berlin, but in all cases following the course of valleys. This plan has been adopted for the convenience of patrolling. Pickets of Turkish cavalry will be *echeloned* along the whole length of the border at sufficiently short intervals to admit of the distance between each being thoroughly patrolled every day. The object of this measure is to stop the marauders and disturbers of the public peace, who, it is feared, may from time to time attempt to cross into the province.

The conditions of those parts of the country where Turkish rule has been re-established, and that of the regions still occupied by the Russian army, present a truly notable contrast. In the first, a vigilant maintenance of order, security of life and property, a conciliatory spirit and really equal justice now, if never before, prevail. In the other, we see a renewal of the barbarous state of affairs which formed the constant theme of my Reports during last summer and autumn, and which it was fondly hoped had in its worst aspects at length passed away for ever; a state of utter lawlessness characterized by bloodshed, torture, outrage, and robbery, inflicted at will by armed Christians on defenceless Mussulmans; hatreds, religious and national, acquiesced in if not encouraged; all with the manifest object of crushing the disfavoured element of the population out of existence.

Turkish fugitives continue to arrive here daily from various parts of Eastern Roumelia, and it would appear that the persecution of Mussulmans in those parts is increasing both in area and in intensity. The contrast above drawn is reproduced in the destitute and forlorn appearance of these poor refugees on the one hand, and on the other, in the evidences of prosperity and the freedom from care exhibited by the Christian emigrants voluntarily seeking new homes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 41.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Malet.

Bourgas, March 6, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, according to private information, the return of the Turkish authorities in the Caza of Viza (south of Adrianople and between Kirk-Kilissé and the sea) was effected with the greatest order and complete tranquillity, the Turkish troops behaving in an exemplary manner, and every article of food required by them being paid to the villagers on the spot.

I have learnt this from a Rayah living at Bourgas, who, as many disquieting reports concerning the district of Viza were current here, sent a special messenger to inquire after his family there, and in return received a letter containing the news I have mentioned.

Notwithstanding this, I am told that the Bulgarians of and around Gütchük-Tirnova are leaving that district, with the intention of settling in Eastern Roumelia.

There are rumours of disturbances having occurred at Kirk-Kilissé within the last day or two, but, as far as I can ascertain, all that took place was a simple demonstration (unaccompanied by outrage and easily quelled) made by the Bulgarians of that town against the Turkish authorities on their return there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 5 in No. 41.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Malet.

Bourgas, March 4, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to the present made by the Russian Government of 1,000 breech-loading rifles to every caza of Eastern Roumelia, which I reported in my despatch No. 7 of the 22nd February, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that Circulars are now being sent out to the Council of Elders of every Bulgarian village inquiring what number of rifles is required by each, and the names of the men into whose hands they are to be given.

These weapons are officially mentioned as intended for the defence of the villages from Bashi-Bazouks. One hundred rifles are returned for the town of Bourgas, where there is an idea of promoting among the Bulgarians a gymnastic club; but I do not think that such an institution will find many members here, the Bulgarians being in a very small majority as compared to other nationalities, and being aware of the dislike, or even hatred, felt towards them by their Christian fellow-subjects, will prevent them from attempting here any armed demonstration.

Whilst, however, I record my idea that in the town of Bourgas the Bulgarians will neither have the courage nor the power to oppose an armed resistance to the return of an authority which they are taught to believe as being entirely Mussulman and imposed on them by the Treaty of Berlin, I must say that the villages of this Caza of Yumboli, Karnabad, and Aïdos have been so worked upon by Bulgarian agents that I believe the definitive departure of the Russian army and the appearance of any Ottoman authority will be the signal for grave disturbances.

I do not think that, supposing the Ottoman authorities to be accompanied by an armed escort, at least in the smaller towns, the Bulgarian inhabitants would attempt to resist their entry; but I have good reason for believing that the Bulgar peasants, who are almost to a man armed with Turkish Martini-Henry-Peabody rifles, will evince their dislike to what they consider as the old régime by attacking, and of course plundering, all the villages still inhabited by Turks in their neighbourhood.

About 7,000 horses which were pastured in this district have been given by the Russian Government as a present to the Bulgarians from Russian officers, who are told off to convey these animals to Varna. I am told that the average value of these horses is about *9s. 6d.*, and that it is more economical to give them away than to send them back to Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BROPHY.

No. 42.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 262.) *Constantinople, March 21, 1879.*

My Lord,

THE negotiations for the Austrian Convention appear to have taken a more favourable turn. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, however, continues to show a distrust of Austria, which I cannot pretend to have removed. His Excellency said he was willing to accept my assurances that Count Andrassy had no intention of pushing on to Salonica, but Count Andrassy would not be Minister for ever, and the concessions which we counselled the Porte to make would give Austria a favourable military position hereafter. I sai that his Excellency need not alarm himself on this account. Count Andrassy must be succeeded by another Hungarian Premier or by a German.

In the first case, the Porte might be sure that the policy would not be changed with regard to Turkey. In the second case, it must know how powerless the Empire would be to pursue a policy which was opposed by Hungary to the extent with which a hostile policy to Turkey was always certain to be opposed by the Kingdom. I said that the strength of the Austro-Hungarian Empire lay in the union, and that Austria alone would never be able to force a policy rejected by Hungary.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 43.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 263.) *Constantinople, March 21, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith an Edict, approved by the Sultan, withdrawing the caïmé, or paper currency, from circulation. It is preceded by a Preamble, and contains seven Articles, in which it is stated that henceforward the Government will only receive coin in payment of taxes, and in its turn will discontinue the payment of salaries, &c., in paper.

A fifth part of the revenue, however, is to be devoted to the withdrawal of the paper currency, and to effect this object the Government will receive a fifth of all taxes, except customs duties, in caïmé, at the rate of 400 piastres paper to the Turkish lira.

The paper money thus received in payment of taxes will be destroyed, and that which is at present in the Treasury will be cancelled and eventually exchanged for gold when the loan which the Porte hopes to raise is concluded.

Caïmé will remain in circulation till the conclusion of this loan. Should, however, the Porte fail to raise money, caïmé will be considered as legal tender for not more than sixteen months after the date of the present Edict.

The new regulation is not by any means as clear as it might be, and caïmé, which last week averaged about 480 to the Turkish pound, fell yesterday at one time as low as 526.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 43.

Extract from "La Turquie" of March 20, 1879.

LE Gouvernement Impérial, par deux communications précédentes, avait porté à la connaissance du public, qu'il avait décidé le retrait du caïmé, et qu'il avait affecté en partie à ce retrait le produit de l'Emprunt Tocqueville. Les négociations de cet emprunt n'étant pas encore terminées, et l'année financière ayant commencé au 1er Mars, date du début de l'année financière pour le renouvellement des comptes du Trésor Impérial, le Gouvernement s'est trouvé dans la nécessité d'effectuer le retrait du caïmé par d'autres moyens, sans changer la base des mesures précédemment annoncées et acceptées avec reconnaissance par le public.

Afin d'effectuer le retrait complet du caïmé dans un temps déterminé et d'épargner au Trésor Impérial la perte d'une grande partie de ses revenus, aussi bien qu'en vue

de préserver les prévisions budgétaires de toute atteinte provenant des fluctuations incessantes du prix du caïmé, le Gouvernement Impérial a décidé de percevoir dorénavant tous les revenus en numéraire, et d'en affecter la cinquième partie au retrait du caïmé.

En agissant ainsi, le Gouvernement Impérial témoigne de sa ferme résolution d'enlever à la circulation, au prix de tous les sacrifices, le papier-monnaie qui, pendant tout le temps de son cours, a été une plaie rongeant la richesse du pays, et une grande entrave aux transactions publiques.

En outre, le Gouvernement Impérial porte à la connaissance du public que l'oeque du pain, à Constantinople et dans sa banlieue, sera vendue au prix de 6 piastres et 10 paras comme par le passé, et qu'afin de faciliter les transactions des habitants, les guichets de la banque continueront à échanger contre caïmé £ T. 2 en or à toute personne qui se présentera au dit établissement.

Le $\frac{8}{20}$ Mars, 1879.

Règlement approuvé par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan pour le retrait du Caïmé et pour la conversion des Revenus et Dépenses du Trésor en numéraire.

Article 1er. En attendant le retrait complet et immédiat du caïmé, qui doit s'effectuer à raison de 4 caïmés de 100 piastres contre £ T. 1, lors de la conclusion de l'emprunt projeté, et conformément aux dispositions des communications officielles, tous les revenus seront perçus en numéraire, à partir de la publication du présent Règlement, tels qu'ils l'étaient avant l'émission du papier-monnaie.

Art. 2. Le caïmé restera en circulation jusqu'à la conclusion de l'emprunt mentionné dans l'Article 1er, et si cet emprunt ne réussit pas, le caïmé restera en circulation une année et quatre mois au plus tard.

A l'exception des droits de Douane, le cinquième de tous les revenus sera perçu à raison de 4 caïmés de 100 piastres contre une livre Turque, et au lieu de 100 piastres métallique, le Gouvernement recevra le caïmé, tout en tenant compte de la différence entre la livre Turque et le métallique.

Art. 3. Les arriérés des revenus des années passées jusqu'au jour de la publication du présent Règlement seront perçus de la manière expliquée dans l'Article 2.

Art. 4. Les Toughras de tous les caïmés reçus par les Caisses du Gouvernement, au *pro rata* de la cinquième partie des revenus, seront détachés sous les yeux des détenteurs, et ces Toughras seront remis entre leurs mains. Le restant de la pièce du caïmé—le Toughra une fois enlevé et sera conservé par le Gouvernement Impérial—incinéré, en conformité des instructions qui seront données ultérieurement par le Ministère Impérial des Finances.

Art. 5. A la publication et à la mise en vigueur du présent Règlement, les caïmés existant dans les Caisses du Gouvernement seront comptés, enrigistrés, et leurs Toughras détachés. Ils seront conservés dans cet état pour être échangés contre livres Turques, à raison de 4 caïmés de 100 piastres contre une livre Turque, dès que l'emprunt projeté aura été conclu.

Art. 6. Ainsi qu'il a été expliqué dans l'Article 2, les caïmés reçus au *pro rata* de la cinquième partie des revenus, au fur et à mesure qu'ils seront encaissés, seront annulés de la manière indiquée dans l'Article 4. Par conséquent, désormais, le Trésor Impérial et les Caisses du Gouvernement ne pourront effectuer leurs paiements en caïmé, et tous les appointements aussi bien que les dépenses ultérieures, seront payés en numéraire, tels qu'ils l'étaient avant l'émission du caïmé.

Art. 7. Les appointements, dépenses, et dettes dus antérieurement à la publication du présent Règlement seront payés par le Trésor Impérial, et par les Caisses de provinces en monnaies de différentes espèces, à raison de £ T. 1 contre 4 caïmés de 100 piastres.

No. 44.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 2.*)

(No. 264.)
Pera, March 21, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of despatches upon matters of interest in their respective districts which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Larissa and Salonica and the Vice-Consul at Bourgas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 44.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Malet.

Larissa, February 26, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to my telegram of the 24th instant, stating that the Commander-in-chief has received intelligence that Greek bands are mustering in the vicinity of the border, I should report that the impression prevails here, both among Turks and Christians, that should the Greco-Turkish Commission, sitting at Prevesa for the delimitation of the Greek frontier, fail to arrive at an early and satisfactory result, the Greek Committees in Greece will renew their insurrectionary attempts in Thessaly and Epirus.

In the meantime, although some serious acts of brigandage, more or less of a political character, have lately occurred near the border, by far the greater majority of the Christians are quiet, and I see no proof of the existence of a desire on their part to make any sacrifices or exertions in favour of a new rising.

On the other hand, the military garrison of this province is strong, and is prepared to take the field, with every prospect of success, against the bands that may come over from Greece, so that the Greek cause can derive no political or material advantage from further insurrectionary expeditions in this direction, and all thinking men here consider that the Greek Government has a greater interest than the Ottoman Government in actively protecting the country from hostile expeditions, which can only result in incalculable distress and misery to the inhabitants of the border districts that may eventually be united to Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 44.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Malet.

Larissa, March 4, 1879.

Sir,

ON the 27th ultimo I addressed to Sir Henry Layard a telegram worded as follows:—

"Official telegram just received from Commandant at Armyro reports that yesterday evening a band of 500 armed Greeks crossed the border and attacked Turkish village in that district, burning eight of its houses, and stealing 200 goats and 100 bullocks.

"Commandant of Carditza also reports having learned through spies that numerous Greek bands are preparing to cross over into Thessaly.

"So far there are no signs that Christian inhabitants of this province are in favour of these insurrectionary expeditions."

Giulemenlu is the name of the Turkish village that suffered from the raid referred to in the above telegram, and the inclosed translated copies, Inclosure No. 1, of two recent telegrams from Iskender Pasha, the Commandant at Armyro, furnish the substance of the deposition made in regard to this matter by a Greek prisoner, who was wounded and captured on the 28th ultimo by a Turkish military outpost in that district.

With a view to furnish Her Majesty's Government with full and trustworthy information as to what is passing on the Greco-Turkish frontier, I have requested Mr. Longworth to proceed to Armyro, which is about five hours distant from Volo, in order to report to me upon the late incidents in that direction; and I beg leave to inclose a copy of the instruction I addressed him on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 44.

Iskender Pasha to Abdi Pasha.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.)
Armyro, March 1, 1879.

YESTERDAY, Friday, the 28th ultimo, one of our outposts in the vicinity of the village of Cofous, under the orders of Sergeant Suleiman, of the 3rd battalion of the Imperial Guard, encountered and dispersed a band of sixteen brigands, and wounded and captured one of their number.

His name is Andrea, son of Sterio, native of Surbi, in Greek territory. As he is dangerously wounded I have put him in the military hospital here, and shall forward to you the substance of the deposition he may make.

Inclosure 4 in No. 44.

Iskender Pasha to Abdi Pasha.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.)
Armyro, March 1, 1879.

THE prisoner, Andrea, states that he is a Corporal of the Hellenic Frontier Guard; that he joined the band under the leadership of the Arvanito Vlach (Albanian Wallach) Thanassouli, composed of fourteen men, who issued from Surbi (in Greek territory) Thursday last, with the intention of going to Velestino; and that while they were trying to steal the goats of the village of Cofous he was shot and taken prisoner by our troops, and the rest of the band dispersed in the hills. He also states that, besides his band, the following other bands have been formed within the last few days at Surbi for the purpose of carrying on brigandage in the direction of Larissa: 30 men under the Chief Massoura; 35 men under Vassil Tchoban; and 35 men under Yanni Palla; and adds that the band of 70 men under Vassil Zacca took part in the raid perpetrated at the village of Guilemenlu on Wednesday, the 26th February last.

Inclosure 5 in No. 44.

Consul Blunt to Vice-Consul Longworth.

(Confidential.)
Larissa, February 27, 1879.

Sir,

THE Commander-in-chief here has recently received telegraphic reports from the Ottoman military authorities near the border, stating that numerous Greek bands were preparing to cross over into Thessaly for the purpose of creating disturbances; and his Excellency received this morning a telegram from Iskender Pasha, the Commandant at Armyro, reporting that yesterday evening a band of 500 armed Greeks crossed the border and attacked the Turkish village of Guilemenlu in that district, burning eight of its houses, and carrying off 200 goats and 100 bullocks.

As I am anxious to furnish Her Majesty's Government with trustworthy information in regard to these matters, I have to request you to proceed to Armyro to inquire into and report upon the state of affairs in that district.

You should endeavour to ascertain the facts of the recent raid on Guilemenlu, and whether there is any foundation in the reports which reach here that Greek bands are preparing to cross into Thessaly for the purpose of inciting the inhabitants to revolt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E BLUNT.

Inclosure 6 in No. 44.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Malet.

Larissa, March 5, 1879.

Sir,

THE civil and military authorities in this province seem to me to be very uneasy at the present state of affairs on the Greco-Turkish border, and they continue to complain of the Greek Government not employing any measures to prevent the departure of armed bands from Greece.

They received intelligence yesterday evening that a band composed of forty brigands

(said to have recently crossed the border) made its appearance on the 2nd instant in the vicinity of Bulgarini and Canallia, between Velestino and Mount Pelion, and, after eluding a Pagana (battue) made in search of them by the military and armed Christian peasants of the villages in that region, succeeded in capturing and carrying off to the mountains a Corporal, named Djiaffer, and two men of the local police, and four Christian hostages!

The presence also in the district of Tricalla of a large band, composed of more than 100 men, including several natives and military deserters from Greece, is a source of considerable alarm to the inhabitants; and I have been told by the Governor of Thessaly that the Christian village communities in that district have spontaneously offered to the Ottoman authorities to make a levy of four armed peasants from each village to be employed with the military in patrolling and guarding the mountain passes.

I also hear from my private agents, in that and other districts, that the Christian peasants, who form the mass of the population in this province, continue quiet and peaceably disposed. For instance, in the district of Carditza the peasants are actively busy with their agricultural pursuits; they have extensively sown this year, and many of them are rebuilding or repairing their houses and churches which were destroyed during the events in 1878.

On the whole, I do not expect, from what I hear and observe, that any renewed attempts of the Greek Committees in Greece to foment an insurrection in these parts will receive much encouragement from the Christian inhabitants, especially if the Ottoman authorities act with tact and moderation in dealing with the people of the districts that may be invaded by the Greek bands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 7 in No. 44.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Malet.

Larissa, March 5, 1879.

Sir,

ON the 1st instant I addressed to Sir Henry Layard a telegram worded thus:—

"I hear that brigands attacked, on the 25th ultimo, the farm of Mr. Bizzo, British subject and dragoman of Salonica Consulate, situate in district of Catterina, in Province of Salonica; that they cut off the head of a woman, killed her son, and dangerously wounded the farm guard, a Mahommedan.

"It is said that these brigands are some of recently dismissed Albanian irregulars, many of whom are dispersed in Province of Salonica; and Governor-General is much to blame for not taking proper measures to send them back to their country."

After communicating on the above subject with the Commander-in-chief, I sent you my second telegram of the same date, worded as follows:—

"The outrages at Mr. Bizzo's farm, reported in my telegram of this morning to Ambassador, are confirmed by telegraphic report received here from military authorities at Catterina; but it is not certain if perpetrators were Albanian or Greek robbers."

Mr. Consul Barker, at Salonica, will have procured from Mr. Interpreter Bizzo, and reported to you, all the particulars connected with these serious outrages, which more directly concern his office, as the district of Catterina where they were perpetrated is under the immediate jurisdiction of the Governor-General of Salonica. As, however, Catterina is under martial law, and the troops stationed there are under the orders of the Commander-in-chief here, I requested the latter to telegraph stringent orders to the military Commandant at that place for the apprehension of the guilty parties, and to direct him to send a Commission to Mr. Bizzo's farm to take the evidence of the Mahommedan guard who was wounded by them. Orders in the above sense have been issued by his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 8 in No. 44.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Malet.

Larissa, March 11, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE been assured that the Commander-in-chief received yesterday evening from the Ottoman Minister for War a telegram couched in the following terms, in answer to

an application he recently addressed to the Porte for the dispatch of more troops to Thessaly:—

"It is not necessary to increase the garrisons of Thessaly and Epirus, as ere long the Greek question will be satisfactorily settled."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 9 in No. 44.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Malet.

Larissa, March 11, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch to Sir Henry Layard of the 12th January, 1879, relative to the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Djuma, a district in the north of Macedonia, I have the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Excellency, a Turkish copy of a telegram which the Commander-in-chief here received this evening from Salih Pasha, his Divisional Commander in Macedonia, acquainting him that the Russian troops were making arrangements to evacuate the above-named district, and that the Bulgarian inhabitants of that district, on being informed by the Russian authorities of their intention to retire from there to Dubnitza, a district included in the Bulgarian Principality, declared their determination to oppose the entry of the Ottoman authorities.

It is very important that the Ottoman troops who may be detached for the occupation of Djuma should be commanded by a prudent and competent General, for this place was one of the principal centres of the late Bulgarian insurrectionary movement in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 10 in No. 44.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Malet.

Larissa, March 12, 1879.

Sir,

INTELLIGENCE has been received here that the Corporal Djiaffer, and two privates of the local police, who were captured last week by the brigands, as reported in my despatch of the 5th instant, have been murdered by their captors, their mutilated bodies having been discovered by a patrol in the vicinity of the village of Canallia, on the road leading to Velestino; and it is feared that a similar fate has befallen three of the four Christian hostages who were carried off by these brigands (the fourth was released and sent by the brigands to the village with a requisition for provisions).

Since the date of my above-mentioned despatch the troops have had some successful encounters with the brigands lurking in the vicinity of the border. The band under the notorious robber chief Zourka, the number of which is variously estimated as consisting of from fifty to seventy persons, has been overtaken and attacked in a defile of the Goura Mountain, in district of Armyro, by a military detachment which was sent in pursuit by Iskender Pasha.

The attack was so sudden that four of the brigands were killed, seventeen wounded, and one captured alive.

A Christian hostage, for whose ransom the brigands had demanded 500*l.*, was also rescued by the troops; the remainder of the band dispersed and took refuge in Greek territory.

On the 9th instant the gang, under the Greek outlaw Dalliani, composed of sixteen persons, was also attacked by a military patrol in the vicinity of the village of Mastro-Yani in the Agrapha Mountains, in district of Carditza, and about an hour distant from the border. Two of the robbers were killed, and the remainder five, of whom including the Chief Dalliani were wounded, dispersed and took refuge in Greece.

Mr. Longworth has returned to Volo from his visit to Armyro, and I hope to receive his Report on the result of his inquiries in time to forward to your Excellency by next mail. But I should add, in connection with the late Greek raid in that district, that M. Palamides, the Hellenic Consul here, has read to me a letter which he recently received from the Nomarch (Prefect) of Lamia, repudiating the Turkish reports relative to the alleged formation of armed bands on the Greek side of the border, with a view to creating disturbances in Thessaly; and declaring that the Hellenic authorities were doing their best to observe their international duties towards Turkey, and that they were anxiously

desirous of coming to some arrangement with the Ottoman provincial authorities for the mutual adoption of measures against brigandage on the border. M. Palamides also told me that the Hellenic police has already apprehended several individuals inculpated in recent acts of brigandage in Thessaly, and who took refuge in Greece; and that he has been commissioned by the "Procureur du Roi" to collect evidence against them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 11 in No. 44.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Malet.

Larissa, March 12, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 8th, and my telegram of the 24th ultimo, to Sir Henry Layard relative to the proposal of the Hellenic authorities to confer with the Ottoman authorities of Thessaly as to the best means to be adopted on both sides for the maintenance of order on the frontier, I have the honour to report that, after writing my despatch of this date to your Excellency, I was informed by the Commander-in-chief of his having received this morning a telegram from Iskender Pasha, the Commandant at Armyro, stating that the Hellenic authorities of Lamia have informed him through the Ottoman Consul there, Aram Bey, that they were prepared to meet and confer with him on the subject on the 17th instant at Surbi, a small township on the Greek side of the frontier, and about two hours from Armyro.

Iskender Pasha, who has accepted this arrangement, also reports that the Prefect of Lamia, the Commander of the Hellenic frontier troops, and the "Procureur du Roi," as well as the Ottoman Consul, Aram Bey, will attend the meeting.

The Ottoman military authorities here, however, seem to me to anticipate no good result from this interview; on the contrary, they are under the impression that it will involve them in some political ambush; and they have in consequence given no discretionary powers to Iskender Pasha, and have strictly enjoined him not to entertain any proposal empowering the military or police of both countries to traverse the boundary line in pursuit of brigands. This measure was formerly sanctioned, I believe, by both Governments, and largely contributed towards the suppression of brigandage in the border districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 12 in No. 44.

Consul Barker to Mr. Malet.

Salonica, March 15, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Circassians, who had been sent to Asia, are returning to this vilayet, in spite of the assurances given to Sir Henry Layard, and the explicit "Iradeh" of the Porte, that they should not return to any part of European Turkey.

Many families have returned to their old quarters near Catterina, and, two days ago, about twenty families, who came back here from Syria, have been sent to other villages in this vilayet.

The Government here has received orders from the Porte that the sheep tax and the fisheries tax shall in future be exacted in metallic currency, and not in paper. The sheep tax was taken in 1877 twice over, on account of the necessities of the war, but paid in paper. It will now be paid once only, but the difference between the paper money and the metallic "beshlics" is so great, that it will be much more than if it were paid twice over in paper, as in 1877.

Everything is perfectly quiet in this vilayet, and no suspicion of plague whatever.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 13 in No. 44.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Malet.

Bourgas, March 10, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency some statistics just received by me relative to the villages of the Caza of Aidos, and which will serve to show approximatively the number of Mussulmans and Bulgarians still remaining in the above caza.

Mixed (Bulgarian and Turkish) villages from which the Turks fled in January, 1878:—

Name of Village.	Number of Turkish Houses.	Name of Village.	Number of Turkish Houses.
1. Kadikeui	15	7. Kara Sahaler	12
2. Piruu	15	8. Tollah Keuy	15
3. Purstépé	10	9. Donardjé	12
4. Küttchallé	12	10. Seferkeui	25
5. Küttchuk Tchengné	20	11. Azapli	15
6. Kawak Mahallé	20		171

The following Mussulman villages have been burned:—

12. Yeni Mahallé Tartar	30	13. Mareo Mahallé	20

To the following villages, inhabited by Bulgarians and Turks, the latter have returned:—

14. Bagokeui	25	15. Sarnalar	25

The Mussulmans of the undernamed villages remained, and still remain, in their homes:—

Name of Village.	Number of Turkish Houses.	Name of Village.	Number of Turkish Houses.
16. Kiziljik	55	47. Tchifelik Mahallé	40
17. Djelep Koupru	20	48. Kessyk	20
18. Kara Tépé	20	49. Hadji Mahallé	20
19. Tchardaklik	25	50. Sari Komarli	100
20. Nadir	25	51. Bekdji	100
21. Uhlarli	78	52. Kizil Pilit	40
22. Elmadéré	60	53. Eredjeh Mahallé	30
23. Guendjerler	60	54. Mokuhua	40
24. Tchmé	70	55. Monnak Tchiftligui	20
25. Sari Kaya	50	56. Piredji	80
26. Shirkar	80	57. Deli Hussein Mahallé	40
27. Baryk	12	58. Kara Ahmet Mahallé	30
28. Otral	50	59. Potresseh	60
29. Maralto	30	60. Sandykjeh	40
30. Kéremitlik	120	61. Kotik	20
31. Karallilar	28	62. Tchalmadjak	70
32. Boghazdéré	30	63. Kouvanlik	30
33. Bilek Mahallé	20	64. Asha Tchiftlik	30
34. Duskoven	40	65. Kouvin Tcheftliken	30
35. Tchepeldjé	40	66. Dedaftar	25
36. Ompdju	30	67. Bairam Alan, 1st ..	100
37. Bozalar	28	68. Bairam Alan, 2nd ..	
38. Dérékeui	20	69. Orta Mahalle	
39. Agvadjik	25	70. Tashlik	15
40. Karavelliler	25	71. Erressiler	30
41. Donar Kaga	30	72. Arnavid Déré	15
42. Tekerlik	40	73. Kouprukeuy	80
43. Toï Keui	40	74. Youssouf Tchobanlar	20
44. Geurdémé	20	75. Abdemesak	30
45. Sappadjé	30	76. Mudjalar	20
46. Sappadjenin Itchmeri	30	77. In the mixed village of Kouprukeui .	25?

The Mussulmans remained without making any attempt at flight.

The total number of villages in the Caza of Aidos was 86, of which 62, purely Mussulman, are still inhabited by the original owners, whose numbers (multiplying each family by six) may be roughly estimated at 14,500.

The twenty-two Bulgarian villages, calculating them to contain each (on an average) forty houses, and estimating the numbers in each family as seven in number, will give a population of about 6,200, the proportion of Mussulmans to Christians in this caza still remaining as 2·3 to 1.

Within a few days I hope to be able to send to your Excellency similar statistics regarding the Cazas of Askialo and Missevria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES BROPHY.

Inclosure 14 in No. 44.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Malet.

Bourgas, March 11, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the 25th February a Turkish officer, Raif Effendi, who, according to an arrangement made between the Russian and Turkish Governments, was charged with the duty of escorting to Constantinople all Mussulman prisoners in Russian and Bulgarian custody within the limits of Eastern Bulgaria, left Bourgas by sea with such prisoners as had been consigned to him by the constituted authorities.

On my mentioning to Raif Effendi that Mussulman prisoners were still detained at Achialo, he applied to the Russian Governor here, who telegraphed officially for information on the subject.

The answer received, also by telegraph, was to the effect that there were no Mussulman prisoners remaining at Achialo.

I have since ascertained from eye-witnesses that there were then, and still are, eleven Turks, prisoners since the sack (by Bulgarians and Russians) of the village of Bouroundjouk, who are daily employed in sweeping the streets, and more particularly in breaking up and removing the monuments in a Turkish cemetery, which it is proposed to convert into a public garden. The latter task is (it is asserted openly by the Bulgarians) assigned them as being specially repugnant to their religious feelings, and calculated to make them appreciate the supremacy of the Christian faith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES BROPHY.

Inclosure 15 in No. 44.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Malet.

Bourgas, March 19, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the first public drill of Bulgarian volunteers belonging to this town took place here on the 16th instant. About fifty members (armed with (Russian) Krinke rifles, presented to them by the Russian Government) paraded, and, I believe, the total number enrolled amounts to about eighty.

Drills are to be attended twice a week, and such volunteers as may be absent without a valid excuse will be liable to a fine, which, on the third absence, will be about 50 fr.

In addition to the 1,000 rifles per caza (mentioned in my report No. 7 of the 22nd February), great numbers of firearms are still being distributed by the Russians amongst the Bulgarian peasantry; 2,500 rifles have been thus given to the Bulgarians of this district.

Two days ago I saw waggons containing rifles (Krinke) and ammunition driven by Bulgarians, and without any military escort. I inquired from the drivers where they were going, and was told that the rifles were a Russian present to the Bulgar villages.

The volunteer movement is certainly general amongst the Bulgarians, and every village turns out its squad once or twice a week. A traveller who passed through the village of Guerdelleh, caza of Karnabad, yesterday saw there eighty-five men drilling; the number of houses in the village being forty-five to fifty.

The same person informed me that, at a distance of half a mile from the town of Aidos on the road from Karnabad, he noticed an assemblage of persons, numbering about 2,000, whom from afar he imagined to be soldiers; but on approaching nearer, and on inquiry, he found that the crowd was composed of the Bulgarians (men, women, and children) of the town, who had heard that M. Schmidt was expected there that day, and had turned out to prevent his entry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES BROPHY.

No. 45.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 269.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 23, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of replies of Kiamil Pasha, Vali of Aleppo, to complaints which have been made to the Porte against his Excellency by Sir Henry Layard, founded on the Reports of Mr. Consul Henderson.

This gentleman's despatch to your Lordship, No. 23 of the 11th October last, stated that it appeared from the statistics prepared by one of the Consuls that seventy-three murders had been committed in the town, and that in no single case had an example been made of the murderers.

Kiamil Pasha replies that only three murders had been perpetrated in the vilayet during a year and a-half. The rest of his answers partake of the same character: he denies the facts.

As his dismissal has been granted by the Porte at the urgent request of Her Majesty's Government, it becomes very desirable that the truth of the accusations brought against him should be made perfectly clear. The evidence transmitted by Mr. Henderson and the concurrent testimony of his colleagues, taken in conjunction with his Excellency's own Reports, cannot but leave the impression that our demand was as consonant with the interests of the Porte as of the Christians and Mussulmans under Kiamil Pasha's rule; but Mr. Consul Henderson will no doubt feel that it is incumbent upon him to assist the Commission—which is, I hope, on the point of starting for Aleppo—in coming to the conclusion that his Reports have been thoroughly well founded.

With this view I transmit to him a copy of this despatch and of its inclosures.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 45.

Substance of Report by Kiamil Pasha.

SON Excellence Kiamil Pacha écrit que les faits mentionnés dans le Mémorandum du 11 Octobre, 1878, ne reposent sur aucun fondement sérieux ou du moins, qu'ils sont démesurément exagérés. En effet, durant une année et demie, trois seuls cas d'assassinat ont été perpétrés dans le vilayet, et les autorités locales ont toujours pris les mesures nécessaires pour la découverte et la punition des coupables. D'ailleurs la tranquillité publique n'y laisse rien à désirer, et c'est à tort que M. le Consul d'Angleterre à Alep s'alarme outre mesure d'une situation qui n'offre rien d'anormal.

Affaire du Cavass du Consulat de France.

(Extrait.)

Cet incident remonte au mois de Chewal. Une rixe sérieuse de corps ayant eu lieu devant les cabarets entre Hamdo (c'est le nom du cavass et un individu en état d'ivresse, appelé Youssouf, quelques passants s'interposèrent, sans toutefois réussir à séparer les deux combattants; car Hamdo ayant saisi son adversaire par la tête, ne le lâchait pas. C'est alors qu'un des assistants aurait crié: "Inezle."

Sur ces entrefaites, quelques zaptiés accoururent sur les lieux et arrêtèrent Youssouf pour le conduire au corps de garde situé en face de l'hôtel Consulaire. Chemin faisant Youssouf parvint à s'échapper des mains des zaptiés; mais Hassan Agha, autre cavass du Consulat de France, ne tarda pas à se saisir de sa personne

avec l'assistance des zaptiés, pour l'amener non plus au corps de garde, mais chez le Consul. Tout le monde se demandait quel serait le sort de Youssouf et des deux autres individus arrêtés avec lui. De là la foule des curieux réunis devant l'hôtel du Consulat. Lorsque la force publique eut fait son apparition on lui livra les prisonniers. Quelques autres arrestations eurent lieu. La justice informa, et deux individus, convaincus de culpabilité, furent condemnés chacun à quatre mois d'emprisonnement.

Cette affaire n'est pas la seule à citer à la charge de Hamdo. Un jour, pendant que le Conseil de Temejezi Noukouk était en délibération, cet individu se présente pour demander de but en blanc le jugement de sa cause.

Invité plusieurs fois à se retirer un moment, Hamdo défie le Conseil, et finit par faire usage de son arme, sur quoi les Juges se séparent.

L'instruction de cette affaire n'était pas encore achevée que l'incident de la rixe dont il s'agit a surgi. Ce n'est pas tout. Hassan Agha, dont il a été parlé plus haut, a battu et blessé il y a deux ans un zaptié en plein public.

La protection du Consul a été cause que l'agresseur continue à jouer d'une impunité absolue.

Incident du Cadi.

A l'occasion de la signature d'un Mazbata dressé par le Conseil d'Administration du vilayet relativement à une interpellation provoquée par les intrigues de l'ex-Defterdar, le Cadi voulant protéger en la personne de ce dernier un parent de l'Exchecki-ul-Islam, a laissé entendre des paroles, auxquelles se trouvait mêlé, entre autres, le nom du Mufti. De là une dispute entre celui-ci et son adversaire.

Cependant, il n'y a eu ni malédiction proférée, ni de démonstrations inconvenants comme celles qu'on attribue au Cadi. Tout s'est réduit à des paroles qui dénotaient chez celui qui les proférait une fatuité outrecuidante.

D'ailleurs, l'incident était en lui-même de si peu d'importance que le Conseil, après en avoir confondu le provocateur, n'a pas cru devoir s'en occuper autrement, et a continué ses travaux.

Affaires des Dîmes.

Les relations de Kiamil Pacha avec le Mufti n'ont jamais été telles qu'on les représente. Celui-ci, loin d'être protégé par le Gouverneur-Général, lui doit sa destitution. Les documents officiels sont là pour le prouver.

Les fils du Mufti ont acheté, il est vrai, les dîmes cette année, comme les années précédentes; mais il n'y a rien de fondé dans l'assertion d'après laquelle quatre-vingts zaptiés aurait été envoyés pour recueillir ces dîmes. Quant aux plaintes des paysans contre les concessionnaires, elles ont été déférées au Tribunal compétent.

Il a été aussi question de Khans, où les céréales sont mesurées et vendues. Si l'on entend par là les provenances des dîmes perçues par l'Etat, toutes les opérations y relatives se font sous le contrôle du Conseil d'Administration du vilayet; de telle sorte qu'il n'est possible à personne de gagner un sou.

Enfin, les abus signalés dans les paiements n'existent pas en réalité; la manière dont les Muttézims doivent s'acquitter de leurs dettes est réglée par ordre de la Sublime Porte.

Inclosure 2 in No. 45.

Extract from two Telegrams addressed to the Sublime Porte by Kiamil Pasha.

LES individus arrêtés par suite des événements de Zeitoun sont au nombre de 164, tant Musulmans que Chrétiens; tous inculpés d'assassinats, de pillages, et d'autres méfaits de ce genre.

Dans ce nombre ne sont pas compris les trente-quatre Arméniens qui avaient attaqué les troupes Impériales, et dont le Chef, l'Evêque, et deux de ses acolytes ont été envoyés déjà à Constantinople. Un détenu Musulman et six Chrétiens sont décédés dans l'intervalle, et un a pris la fuite pendant le trajet.

Le retard apporté dans l'instruction de l'affaire provient de ce que le Naïb de

Marache étant mort sur ces entrefaites, son remplaçant n'a pas été nommé à temps par le Cheikh-ul-Islamat. Néanmoins quatre-vingt-treize des prévenus ont déjà été jugés et leurs jugements seront communiqués à la Sublime Porte aussitôt que le Divane Jemyze qui en est saisi aura définitivement prononcé sur leur sort.

L'instruction des autres prévenus sera poursuivie sans relâche.

Le reste des séditieux laissés en liberté ont cerné le local de l'autorité à Zeitoun, pillé la Caisse, et délivré les quelques personnes qui étaient aux arrêts.

Les gendarmes envoyés pour secourir les représentants de l'autorité locale n'ont pas eu un meilleur sort; onze ont été tués, et les autres faits prisonniers. Mais à la nouvelle des mesures militaires prises par le Gouvernement, ces derniers ont été relâchés.

De même que la mise en liberté des Chefs des insurgés envoyés à Constantinople pourra servir à encourager les séditieux d'ici, de même aussi un pareil acte de clémence en faveur des prisonniers d'ici pourrait être attribuée à la faiblesse du Gouvernement et produire de fâcheuses conséquences dans tout le vilayet. Son Excellence Kiamil Pacha termine en disant que la construction au printemps prochain en face de Zeitoun d'une caserne pouvant contenir une force suffisante, saura mettre un terme aux penchants séditieux de la population de ce district.

Par un autre télégramme, Kiamil Pacha dément catégoriquement le mauvais traitement et les privations auxquels seraient soumis les prisonniers Zeitouniens; la mort de quelques-uns d'entr'eux est toute naturelle, et ajoute qu'en cas de maladie parmi les autres prisonniers, le médecin du vilayet ne manquera par de les soigner.

No. 46.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 270.)

My Lord, *Pera, March 24, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Acting Consul Calvert, relative to the emigration movement of the Christian population from the Province of Adrianople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 46.

Acting Consul Calvert to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Adrianople, March 20, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Christian emigration from this province has much slackened within the last few days. It appears, indeed, to be now at an end.

It is difficult as yet to arrive at a true estimate of the extent of this movement. The Russians would have it believed that the number of emigrants is double what it was during the exodus of last autumn, but there is reason to doubt whether it even approaches the same figure. I am still without reliable information as to the district of Kirk-Kilissé, but in every other part of the country the present movement certainly falls short of the last. On the other hand, the reckoning of the Turkish authorities here, which would limit it to 500 families by rail and a smaller number by road, is undoubtedly an under-estimate.

The movement by rail since my last Report on the subject has been 42 waggons from Ouzoun-Keupry (of which 37 proceeded to Yamboli and 5 to Philippopolis), and 27 from Demotica (8 to Yamboli and 19 to Philippopolis). This would make, at a rough estimate, a maximum of 4,500 souls for the whole emigration by rail. The number of emigrants by road it is impossible at present to guess, but—leaving always aside the unknown case of Kirk-Kilissé—it appears to have been less considerable than by rail.

The movement in the Demotica district, where it had begun to take very large proportions, has now completely subsided. At Sofulu, where (as mentioned in the despatch above referred to) the population, amounting to 1,200 families, had already left

in a body, all have returned to their homes. Only a few families have quitted Saltikioï, which had been similarly abandoned. In fine, the exodus which at one time threatened to depopulate the district, has been limited to 517 families from the town of Demotica itself, and the whole of the inhabitants, except twenty-seven families, of Karabeyli, Prankioi, and Arnaout-kioï, three small villages numbering together 300 to 400 families. The Christian inhabitants of the district are mostly of the undetermined nationality which enters so largely into the population of the southern parts of Thrace; they are, that is, of Bulgarian origin, but more or less Hellenized as to language and political sympathies. It is easy, then, to understand the anxiety of the Panslavists to remove them beyond the sphere of Hellenic influences and so to arrest the process of denationalization.

I am assured by an impartial foreign resident, who was in the district of Demotica when the movement was at its height, that the Russian authorities added threats, and even force, to persuasion in order to promote that end. The villagers were, he assures me, peremptorily ordered to leave their homes, and were "driven like cattle" to the railway station, where they were compelled by the Russian officers to take the train, on pain of a fine of 5*l.* for each person who refused. Thanks to the strenuous efforts of Réouf Pasha, and the united exhortations of the Greek and Bulgarian Bishops, clergy, and Notables, the movement, even in the case of willing emigrants, was eventually, for the most part, counteracted.

To a similar course of Russian action, it appears, the large emigration from Ouzoun-Keupry is likewise to be attributed. The Sub-Governor at that place so warmed to his work, indeed, that he stayed behind with a small detachment in order to complete it, and has actually refused to obey the summons of the ex-Commandant at Adrianople (who is still here) to cease his exertions and come away. The Commandant has consequently to-day telegraphed to this over-zealous official threatening to proceed in person to Ouzoun-Keupry and place him under arrest.

I have in a preceding despatch referred to the application made by the Bulgarian Committee at Slivno to the Bulgarian Bishop and to the Ottoman authorities here, begging them to endeavour to arrest the emigration, and I am enabled now to transmit to your Excellency the copy and translation of a Pastoral, drawn up by the Bishop with that object. The desire of the prelate to turn back into his own fold those of his own flock who were straying from it is evidently sincere, and there is no doubt that his exhortations have had their influence in achieving the desired end.

With a similar object Réouf Pasha has notified to those emigrants who have already left, that those who may wish to return will be reconveyed to their homes by rail at the expense of the Porte.

A certain number of families returned a few days ago from Slivno and Yamboli, and it was then reported that they would be followed shortly by the whole body of emigrants. The statement proves to have been at least premature, but there is good reason to believe that the Bulgarians of the Balkan districts at large concur with those at Slivno in viewing with displeasure the advent of their southern brethren, and that they have given them but a cold reception. It is believed to be only owing to the control exercised by the Russian authorities that they have not been summarily sent back.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 46.

Pastoral Letter.

(Traduction.)

Aux Prêtres, aux Primats, et à tous les habitants Chrétiens de la Province d'Andrinople.

LE très-sage Dieu, qui a fait tout dans le monde pour le bonheur de son peuple aimé, a voulu que la paix, attendue impatiemment par tout le monde, soit enfin rétablie dans ces localités. Comme vous l'avez déjà su, la paix définitive a été signée entre Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan et l'Empereur de Russie. Par suite de cette paix l'armée Russe se retirant, ces localités seront à l'avenir occupées par des troupes régulières envoyées par le Sultan pour maintenir l'ordre et la tranquillité parmi vous et pour empêcher les mauvais gens de vous faire du mal.

Nous espérions que tout le monde allait saluer avec plaisir le rétablissement de la

paix qui fera disparaître l'incertitude et qui encouragera tous de s'occuper paisiblement de leurs travaux. Malheureusement nous voyons avec beaucoup de regret que les habitants Chrétiens, au lieu d'entendre avec plaisir la nouvelle de la signature de la paix, ont été au contraire saisis de peur chimérique, et qu'ils ont été poussés par certaines personnes à quitter leurs foyers et à émigrer à des localités où ils seront privés de tout.

Quels sont les motifs qui les poussent à cette émigration? Craignent-ils qu'on ne leur demande de répondre pour la conduite qu'ils ont tenue pendant l'occupation Russe?

Mais son Excellence Réouf Pacha, dans sa notification adressée aux habitants, assure que comme le Traité Russo-Turc accorde une amnistie complète on doit oublier le passé et s'occuper à l'avenir paisiblement de son travail. Craignent-ils que les habitants Turcs ne leur fassent du mal? Mais le Gouverneur-Général a des moyens puissants aussi bien que la volonté de prévenir tout malheur et pour ne permettre des actes de vengeance, l'intérêt du Gouvernement d'ailleurs exigeant l'application de pareilles mesures.

Les habitants peuvent demander des assurances que s'ils voient à l'avenir qu'ils ne peuvent pas vivre tranquillement dans le pays, ils seront laissés libres d'émigrer. Mais ces assurances sont données spontanément par son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général, qui dit que quiconque voudrait à l'avenir émigrer sera toujours parfaitement libre de le faire. Chacun peut donc être tranquil à ce sujet aussi. Que personne ne doute que notre énergique Gouverneur-Général ne soit décidé de livrer à l'oubli le passé et de ne prendre en considération que le présent: c'est-à-dire d'assurer la tranquillité des sujets du Gouvernement pour qu'ils puissent s'occuper paisiblement de leurs travaux et qu'ils fassent des progrès dans la voie de la richesse et du bonheur qui sont exigés par l'intérêt bien entendu de l'Empire.

Nous sommes bien persuadés qu'il n'y aura à l'avenir ni d'abus, ni pillages, ni les moindres accidents, que l'ordre sera rétabli sous peu, et que les habitants Chrétiens vivront en bons voisins avec une harmonie et un accord parfaits avec les Turcs, choses qui sont indispensablement nécessaires pour le bonheur de tous. En un mot, nous sommes sûrs que les craintes des Chrétiens sont absurdes ou très-exagérées, et que si les habitants ne se débarrassent pas de ces craintes, ils marchent à une ruine évidente que leur agitation et leur confusion les empêchent aujourd'hui de prévoir.

Ce peuple naïf sait-il où il émigre? Pense-t-il qu'il trouvera dans la Roumélie Orientale des maisons, des champs, des prairies, des vignes comme il en possède dans son pays? Il se trompe beaucoup, s'il pense ainsi. Dans les localités où il veut émigrer, les habitants même restent sans maison, sans couvertures, sans moyens de nourriture. Dans ces circonstances chaque émigration n'aura pour résultat qu'une ruine complète parce que l'homme qui n'a pas de biens est toujours mort.

Nous répétons que ceux qui pensent qu'ils trouvront le bonheur dans l'émigration se trompent beaucoup. Leur bonheur consiste dans le maintien de ce que leurs pères et que leurs ancêtres leur ont laissé avec tant de peine.

Quelle émigration a eu un bon résultat? Prenons par exemple la fuite des habitants Turcs pendant la guerre. Leur peur était alors raisonnable parce que il y avait la guerre. Malgré cela, ceux qui sont restés dans leur pays non-seulement n'ont rien souffert, mais ils ont sauvé encore leurs biens et ils sont contents du bon état où ils se trouvent aujourd'hui. Mais ceux qui ont pris la fuite ont perdu tout, ont souffert les plus grands malheurs, ont été en grande partie gélés, et ceux qui ont survécu se trouvent dans un état déplorable.

Nos enfants, nous vous conseillons paternellement de vous débarrasser de ces craintes absurdes qui vous tourmentent sans raison. Vous n'avez rien à craindre, en restant chez vous dans vos foyers paternels près des cendres de vos ancêtres et de vos pères.

Le passé est déjà passé sans retour. Si vous restez dans vos propriétés, attendez avec confiance un bon avenir. Si vous émigrez, soyez sûrs que vous n'avez à attendre rien de bon. Ne vous vous trompez pas par des espérances illusoires. Si vous émigrez soyez sûrs que vous ne trouvrez aucun des bonheurs que vous espérez. Au contraire, voici ce qui vous attend: des milliers d'hommes seront perdus par des souffrances de toute espèce, et ceux qui survivront regarderont de loin avec une douleur profonde leurs foyers qu'ils ont abandonnés et ils n'auront pas alors les moyens d'y retourner.

Voilà, nos enfants, nos conseils paternels que nous vous adressons de tout notre cœur. Ecoutez nos paroles, et vous ne vous en répentirerez pas.

Que le bon Dieu vous éclaire pour vous sauver de l'abîme où vous voulez vous jeter, et qu'il vous garde tous, vous et vos familles, de tous les malheurs.

Andrinople, le $\frac{17 \text{ Février}}{1 \text{ Mars}}$ 1879.

(Signé) L'Evêque SYNESSIOS.

(L.S.) Métropole Bulgare à Andrinople.

No. 47.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 271.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 26, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter which I have received from the Patriarch of Sis, expressing his thanks for the exertions of Her Majesty's Government, Embassy, and Consul at Aleppo on behalf of the Armenian population of Cilicia, together with a copy of my reply thereto.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 47.

The Patriarch of Sis to Mr. Malet.

M. le Ministre,

JE m'estimais déjà bien heureux d'avoir eu l'honneur insigne de nouer avec votre Excellence des relations personnelles, et je m'empresse d'exprimer à votre Excellence au nom des Arméniens de la Cilicie ma vrai et profonde satisfaction relativement au nouveau mandat qui lui a été confié pour représenter à Constantinople le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Je profite de cette occasion pour remercier encore une fois votre Excellence de l'intérêt qu'elle veut bien prendre au sort des Arméniens et particulièrement de ceux de Zeitoun. J'ai aussi des remerciements sincères pour la sollicitude de M. Henderson, qui tient à cœur d'exécuter les instructions de votre Excellence avec une grande énergie et beaucoup de dévouement.

Me serait-il permis de prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien communiquer à son Excellence Lord Salisbury l'expression de mon éternelle reconnaissance pour tout le bien que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique daigne faire à mes malheureuses ouailles.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) MEQUERDITCH I,

Catolicos de Cilicie, Vartabed de Jérusalem.

Inclosure 2 in No. 47.

Mr. Malet to the Patriarch of Sis.

Monseigneur, *Constantinople, March* 25, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Beatitude's letter of the 22nd February, which I shall lose no time in forwarding to Lord Salisbury, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

In employing my efforts for the amelioration of the condition of the Armenians of Cilicia and the inhabitants of Zeitoun, I have acted with the desire of promoting their welfare, and thereby strengthening the bonds which unite them to the Empire and confirming their fidelity to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan.

I beg to thank your Beatitude for the terms in which you are so good as to speak of these efforts.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 48.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 272. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Pera, March* 27, 1879.

KHAIRIDIN PASHA, the Grand Vizier, asked me on the 24th instant to write confidentially to your Lordship on the subject of Tunis. His Highness said that although his duties towards the Ottoman Empire at present absorbed his whole attention, he could not but retain a warm regard for the country of his adoption, and he saw with great regret that its present administration must soon bring upon it financial and political disaster if better counsels did not obtain the upper hand. He said that the First Minister of the Bey was a person whose sense of justice was exhibited by simple requisitions of money on the wealthy inhabitants, supported by threats; that he was devoid of education, and ignorant of the commonest principles of statesmanship. His Highness foresaw that in a few years, as things were going on, the little State must fall into the hands of the French or the Italians; and he entreated your Lordship, by an active policy, to assert the interests of England, in order to maintain a counterpoise to French and Italian aims. He believed it was the object of Her Majesty's Government to maintain the supremacy of England at sea in the Mediterranean, and he felt that if Biserta Bay were to fall into other hands it would be a blow to that supremacy, which easily might be avoided if Her Majesty's Government made it known by its policy that it would not accept with indifference the absorption of Tunis by France or Italy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 49.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 273.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 27, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a further Report communicated to me by the Sublime Porte regarding the troubles at Zeitoun, which I presume is Kiamil Pasha's version of the incident which led to the capture of the Bishop of Turnous. It is a repetition of the statement that the Ottoman forces were attacked by 600 insurgents. The Bishop himself states the number of persons who accompanied him at from thirty to forty; and Mr. Montgomery, United States' Vice-Consul, who was on the spot—though the Pasha asserts that from where he stood he could not see what went on—puts down the number as, at most, seventy-five, and describes their object as the peaceable presentation of a petition relating to their grievances.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 49.

Memorandum.

IL y a plus de cinq mois, le nommé Houkas, petit-fils de Dec Kévork, Archiprêtre de l'Église Arménienne de Smyrne, se rendit à Zeitoun, où il reçut d'abord l'hospitalité chez un prêtre nommé Der Hazas.

Pendant les quelques jours qu'il y passa, Houkas ne perdit pas son temps; il se livra à des menées et à des machinations tendantes à exciter les esprits, après quoi il alla chercher l'Evêque Nikoghos dans son monastère de Fernouz, pour le circonvenir par des assertions fallacieuses comme quoi le Congrès de Berlin aurait décidé d'établir une administration Arménienne à Zeitoun, et d'amener la réduction des impôts. En outre on viendrait au secours des rebelles par des souscriptions et des armes de nouveau système fournies tant par l'Europe que par la communauté Arménienne. Houkas trouva un puissant appui dans le professeur d'école qu'il avait précédemment gagné à sa cause.

Ces deux individus, accompagnés de l'Evêque, voyagèrent à Smyrne, et de là à Constantinople, où ils passèrent plus d'un mois.

Ensuite ils quittèrent la capitale: Houkas se rendit à Smyrne, et ses compagnons rentrèrent à Zeitoun.

Une fois là, ces derniers prirent les mesures nécessaires pour révolutionner le pays.

Dans l'espace de quelques jours ils réussirent à réunir un certain nombre de brigands recrutés à Zeitoun et dans le village de Mikhal, situé à une heure et demie de distance.

Malgré les conseils des autorités, plus de six cents insurgés attaquèrent de bon matin le camp Impérial. Les troupes ayant dû riposter, mirent en fuite les rebelles, les poursuivirent, et les traquèrent.

La perte des rebelles s'élève à environ dix blessés. L'Évêque Nigoghas, le Chef d'insurrection; Teholak Artin, maître d'école; et Hohaz Ogloutanos, furent entre autres faits prisonniers, et expédiés sous escorte à Constantinople.

Il existe une proclamation séditieuse écrite par le maître d'école, et signée par l'Évêque.

La Justice informe.

Le 9 Novembre, 1878.

No. 50.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 4.)

(No. 276.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 27, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two despatches and their inclosures, which I have received from Mr. Consul Blunt, relative to the recent disturbances on the Turco-Greek frontier.

I have communicated these Reports to Her Majesty's Minister at Athens.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 50.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Larissa, March* 16, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 19 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to submit to your Excellency the inclosed copy of a despatch from Mr. Longworth, reporting the result of his inquiries into the recent incidents in the district of Armyro.

It confirms most of the accounts received here by the Ottoman authorities of the disturbed state of affairs on the border, to which I have adverted in my previous despatches to your Excellency.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 50.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Volo, March* 13, 1879.

IN pursuance of your instructions of the 27th ultimo, I left Volo for Armyro on the 3rd instant, and having returned on the 8th, I proceed to furnish you with the following Report:—

The time, thoughts, and feelings of the public in that district are at present entirely engrossed by the acts and operations of the brigands.

The proceedings of the latter have, in fact, become of late a matter of the highest interest, and a source of serious fear and trouble.

The country swarms with brigands, not by gangs consisting of tens and twenties, as in former times, but by forties, sixties, eighties, and even hundreds.

Any attempt at suppressing this rapidly growing evil with regular troops is likely to be attended with the greatest difficulty, if not with almost impossibility, as is sufficiently proved by the results of Mehmet Ali Pasha's Mission in 1873-4. For it is evident that as

the bandits, who were then few and badly armed, were enabled in their fastnesses to defy the forces brought against them, little will intimidate them now much more numerous as they are armed with Chassepôt rifles.

Major-General Iskender Pasha, with his 2,500 troops, is certainly doing his utmost to keep the district of Armyro quiet; but to what success the destruction of the Mahommedan village of Guilemenlu only too clearly shows.

The following are the details of the event, which I have chiefly derived from the unfortunate sufferers, who are now in a completely destitute condition:—

The village of Guilemenlu is, or rather was, situated about fifteen miles from the town of Armyro, and consisted of forty inhabitants. It was a hamlet of eight huts, constructed mostly of mud and wood, with three or four rooms to each, and with two detached buildings, one for the shelter of flocks and herds, and the other for grain.

On the 27th ultimo, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, fifteen men of Zourka's Albanian-Wallach band of brigands crept towards the village, and carried off its goats.

They were observed by a man, who at once gave the alarm to the inhabitants and to the half company of troops posted at Koilerderay, a village lying two miles further west. The soldiers and the people immediately turned out, and with no success endeavoured to impede the fifteen brigands from driving the flock into Greece, whilst another portion of the same band, unknown in number, broke unawares into the village and completely sacked and burned its houses.

The following is a brief list of the losses sustained by the inhabitants:—

	T. £
Carried off—	
260 goats, at 50 piastres	130
2 bullocks, at 600 piastres	12
4 donkeys, at 300 piastres	12
8 calves, at 50 piastres	4
1 horse	10
Household effects	400
Killed—	
2 bullocks, at 600 piastres	12
2 cows, at 500 piastres	10
Burnt—	
6 huts, sheds, &c., at 20	120
Total	710

I should also add that an unfortunate woman called Razia, age 60, lost her life amid the flames of her dwelling, and that in the recent troubles this is not the first time that the little village has been destroyed, for during the insurrection it was also attacked by insurgents, when seven of its houses, together with their sheds and granaries, were burned to the ground. Five of its buildings, however, had been reconstructed and once more inhabited, when the people encountered this new misfortune.

One of my principal objects at Armyro was to ascertain whether the bands of brigands prowling in Turkey receive any material or moral support from Greece. On learning, therefore, that there was a wounded prisoner from one of the gangs lying in the hospital, I at once asked to see him. The following are his verbal statements, made by him in answer to my questions, in a tone of voice that bore about it a ring of truth:—

1. That his name is Andria Sterio Limoni, a Greek subject, born at Platano, and residing eleven years at Surbi.

2. That he is a corporal in the Greek army, and serves in Colonel Yani Lagopolo's Lamia regiment, and Captain Stephani Letcha's 4th Company of Infantry, stationed at Surbi.

3. That on the 24th February last he joined an Albanian-Wallach band of fifteen brigands, under the leadership of Thanasoula, who procured for him from his Commanding officer a week's leave of absence.

4. That he was engaged for 3 liras and for a share in the plunder.

5. That they mustered in the village, and left during the night of the 25th for Villestino, from whence they were to convey Thanasoula's family to Surbi.

6. That on the 27th, whilst trying to catch a goat near Koufono, a Turkish patrol came upon them, and in the encounter he got shot through the body, seized, and brought here, where he is being treated with all kindness, care, and comfort.

7. That Surbi is only a small village of eighty houses, situated about three hours from Armyro, on the Hellenic frontier.

8. That the little village is the haunt of at least five distinct bands of brigands: for Vassil Gourko, with 70 men; Yani Palla, with 30; Saracatchan Mashura, with 30; Vassil Chopito, with 40; and Thanasoula, with 15, are continually going in and out, and are walking freely at Surbi unconcealed.

9. That a close intimacy exists between the brigand Chiefs and the Curl and military officials of the village, mostly so with Demitri Faranaki, Balphos, Papadopolo, Litcha, and Yani Marko.

10. That soldiers are frequently allowed to join the brigands for a few days, and that even a trumpeter is known to have done so with his bugle.

11. That brigands, armed with rifles, enter, leave, and re-enter Surbi at their own free will and pleasure, and in spite of the quarantine regulations and restrictions to which all travellers are at present subject.

12. That to his knowledge, apart from these gangs of robbers, there are no insurrectionary bands mustering now in Greece, or even preparing to do so.

Whilst I was at Armyro, Iskender Pasha saw the necessity of striking terror into some of these bands of brigands, and in consequence his Excellency drew out and executed the following plan:—

He divided into six detachments 1,000 men, and, placing each in command of one of his best officers, directed them to proceed respectively to villages situated round the mountainous district, and when there to open the sealed instructions he furnished them with. The written orders indicated whom to take as guides, the hour to start, the route to pursue, the place of rendezvous, and the time they were to reach it. It is to be regretted that on that day only Gourka, with a band of sixty-three followers, happened to be on those mountains. They saw the troops coming towards them from the north, east, and west, and they made to the south, when the detachment from that direction encountered them and killed five; the rest (many wounded, judging from the traces of blood) fled towards the south-west.

By an arrangement come to with Major-General Hussein Pasha, there should have been also troops from Domoko on that side of the mountains; but from misunderstanding, if not from jealousy, the latter failed to post his soldiers along the south-western line, and thus the brigands made their escape by the only available outlet. This is most unfortunate, for the survivors now in Greece are still strong, and are probably contemplating such mischief as is dictated by a spirit of vengeance and retaliation.

Until lately I remained in uncertainty as to the real cause of the brigandage now in Thessaly; whether its authors were principally urged on to such deeds by political motives, abject poverty, predatory habits, or rapacious inclinations; but I no longer entertain any doubts on the subject.

It is evident there is a political object in view.

By the connivance of the Hellenic frontier officials, the bands are organized in Greece from among the most depraved and needy, and enter into Turkish territory to sack unprotected villages; to carry off the herds on the hills; to seize, as hostages, man, woman, or child; and, in short, to lay violent hands on anything and everything they can with impunity, and thus render the country perfectly unfit to live in by placing at stake the life, honour, and property of both the Christian and Mahommedan populations.

On my asking the Greeks by what indirect influence could this sad state of affairs have been brought about, they all more or less concur in expressing the opinion that it is prompted by the Hellenic authorities of the frontier, although they exculpate the Government of Athens from all blame.

I inquired what could have possibly dictated such a policy. Some replied that the border officials are of a disreputable character, and make common cause with the brigands in order to share in the booty; but others confess that it is intended to show up the Turks as unable to govern the province, and thus hasten its annexation to Greece.

Such being the cause, the effect produced on the inhabitants of Armyro is anything but favourable to the interests of Greece. Among the higher classes, the former patriotic ardour is cooled down by a feeling of disgust, whilst among the lower classes want and constant danger make them quite indifferent to all things but their own misery; and now the cry all round is no longer for freedom, but for peace, for peace at any cost!

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY G. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 50.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Malet.

Larissa, March 18, 1879.

Sir,

IT appears that the attention of the Hellenic Government has been called to the recent disturbances on the border, and to the alleged formation of armed bands in Greece for the purpose of renewing incursions in Thessaly. Persons who arrived here yesterday from Armyro state that a General Order has been issued and circulated by the Hellenic Minister for War, strictly directing the military authorities on the frontier to exercise great vigilance and take the most rigorous measures against the formation and departure of these bands.

I am assured that the inclosed is a copy of this Order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 50.

Circular addressed by M. Delyanni to the Military Authorities on the Frontier.

(Télégraphique.) *Athènes, le* $\frac{23 \text{ Février}}{7 \text{ Mars}}$, 1879.

SOUS votre responsabilité personnelle nous vous invitons de dissoudre immédiatement tout attroupement d'hommes armés qui auraient l'intention d'envahir une province limitrophe, d'arrêter et de désarmer sans le moindre retard ceux qui composent ces attroupements, et même des individus isolés ayant le même but, et de les délivrer à l'instant à l'autorité judiciaire compétente.

La présente soit immédiatement communiquée par télégraphe, ou bien là où il n'y en a pas, par le courrier extraordinaire, à toutes les stations.

Tout manque d'activité dans l'exécution de cet ordre sera considéré une dérogation préméditée au devoir.

Tenez le Ministère journellement informé par télégraphe sur ce qui regarde le service très-important en question.

Le Ministre,
(Signé) D. GRIVAS.

No. 51.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 11. Political.)

My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, March* 17, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 6, Political, of the 5th February, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Austrian local authorities refuse now to recognize M. Lodygensky as Russian Consul for Bosnia.

M. Lodygensky, when he left Vienna, was led to believe that the necessary orders to secure his official recognition had been given by the Austrian Government to the authorities in Bosnia, and he was provided with letters to the civil and military authorities on the frontier to facilitate his journey as Russian Consul. On his arrival here he called on the Duke of Würtemberg in full uniform, and his Royal Highness returned the visit the following day. On the 12th February also M. Lodygensky announced in writing to the Duke, as he did to all his colleagues, that he had entered on his functions as Russian Consul for Bosnia. No answer was at the time made to this announcement; it was a mere formality and required none. On the 11th instant, however, in the absence of the Duke of Würtemberg, his Excellency General Jovanovic acknowledged the receipt of it, and stated that, in accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the formalities customary in Austria-Hungary not having been complied with, he could not recognize M. Lodygensky in his official character.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 52.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 72.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, March* 19, 1879.

AS Her Majesty's Government are now on the point of establishing a permanent Diplomatic Mission in this Principality, I have thought it advisable to collect, for their

information, the following particulars respecting the rank, salary, and staff of the Representatives of the Great Powers at Belgrade:—

Turkey will be represented by an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, with the usual diplomatic staff. Owing to his superior official rank he will, on his arrival, at once supersede the Russian Representative as Senior Member ("Doyen") of the Diplomatic Body.

Russia is represented by a Minister Resident, with a salary and personal allowances amounting to 1,760*l.*, and a staff consisting of a Secretary of Legation, an Attaché, and a Dragoman.

Austria-Hungary is represented by a Minister Resident, whose temporary salary and personal allowances, including house rent, amount to about 1,800*l.*, and who is to have a staff composed of a Secretary of Legation, an Attaché, a clerk, a Dragoman, and two pandours (Chancery messengers).

France is represented by a Minister Plenipotentiary, with the local rank of Minister Resident. His salary and allowances* amount to 1,600*l.*, and his staff will consist of a Secretary of Legation, a clerk ("Chancelier"), and a Dragoman.

Italy will be represented by a Minister Resident, with a salary and allowances amounting to 1,280*l.*, and a staff composed of a Secretary of Legation and a Dragoman.

Germany is represented by a Chargé d'Affaires and Consul-General, with a salary and personal allowances amounting to fully 1,800*l.*, and a staff consisting of a clerk and a Dragoman.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 53.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 73.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, March 20, 1879.*

I SEE by the "Times" newspaper of the 14th instant that its correspondent at Pesth, who is generally well informed, confidently asserts that a British subject named Cooper has been taking a leading part in organizing the threatened insurrection in Eastern Roumelia and Macedonia, and that, according to this individual's boast, M. Ristich expressed to him his cordial approval of his proceedings. I am, however, in a position to affirm that the correspondent's statement is to my personal knowledge completely devoid of foundation.

The individual in question, about whose real name and nationality I entertain serious doubts, notwithstanding his being provided with a Foreign Office passport in the name of William Cooper, dated the 23rd April, 1860, and bearing the number 19,474, was recently for some time at Belgrade, where he was a source of considerable annoyance and trouble to Her Majesty's Legation. His object in returning to Servia from Bosnia, where until now, according to the papers he produced, he seems to have been employed with the consent of the Austro-Hungarian authorities in the capacity of a newspaper correspondent, was twofold—first, to obtain payment of a claim against the Servian War Office for his services during the war; and secondly, to endeavour to extort money from Prince Milan, under the pretext of offering his assistance to prevent certain private family matters from coming to light. I refused to have anything to do with his claim for payment of military services, because it was founded on a breach of the Queen's Proclamation of Neutrality, and, as regards the latter case, I am happy to say he never brought it under my notice, although he showed the papers in connection with it to one, if not to two, of my colleagues. He succeeded in obtaining an audience of M. Ristich, but both his claims and his offers of assistance were promptly rejected. I am not aware that his Excellency has any special desire to see the union of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia brought about, and if he had, Mr. Cooper is, I feel certain, one of the last persons to whom he would confide it.

Shortly after Mr. Cooper's arrival in Belgrade he was sued for an old outstanding debt of about 18*l.*, and, failing to meet it, his effects were sequestered with my knowledge by the local police authorities in conformity with the Servian law in such cases. I did all I could to bring the matter to a compromise; but I did not deem myself justified in interfering officially on his behalf, considering that his signature was on the bill in acknowledgment of the debt. Being in a destitute condition, he was finally sent, at his

* The greater part personal.

own request, to Agram in Croatia, partly at my private expense, and partly at that of my German and Austro-Hungarian colleagues, to whom he had in some way or other made himself useful. He has since telegraphed to me within the last few days from the above-named town, where, it is said, he usually resides, and where I still believe him to be.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 54.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 75.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, March 25, 1879.*

LUBIBRATITCH, one of the leaders of the Herzegovinian insurrection, to whom I have recently had occasion to refer in connection with the projected rising against the Austrian occupation of that and the sister province of Bosnia, disappeared a few days ago from Belgrade, where he usually resides as a State pensioner of the Servian Government. He is now reported to be in Rome, endeavouring to enlist the active support of the party in Italy which is known to be opposed to Austria.

Much discontent has been caused in Bosnia by the refusal of the Imperial military authorities to permit the distribution of the large supplies of flour and other descriptions of food sent by Servian sympathizers for the relief of the population, a considerable proportion of which is represented to be in a starving condition.

I will shortly be in a position to submit to your Lordship the translation of a so-called ultimatum, dated Banjaluka, the 10th instant, which is alleged to have been addressed to Count Andrassy on behalf of the Bosnians and Herzegovinians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 55.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 70.)
My Lord, *Athens, March 19, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the final sitting of the Rectification Commission was held yesterday at Prevesa.

The Representatives of Turkey brought forward a proposal in regard to the new frontier, whereby their Government offered a narrow strip of country parallel with the existing Greek frontier, and which, starting from the Gulf of Volo, took in Domoko, and ended at a river called Aspropotamo.

The Greek Commissioners, considering this suggestion as quite unacceptable, explained that, in view of the wide divergence between this line and that proposed at Berlin, it appeared useless to continue the negotiations.

The foregoing declarations were then embodied in a Protocol, and visits of farewell were afterwards exchanged between the Ottoman and Hellenic Delegates.

The former did not conceal their regret at the failure of the negotiations, and even threw out a suggestion of again telegraphing to Constantinople.

It is, however, thought here that the Greek Commissioners have left Prevesa to-day, and the Government intend at once to claim the mediation of the Great Powers, according to the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 56.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 2.*)

(No. 72.)
My Lord, *Athens, March* 20, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Greek Delegates to the Commission for the rectification of the frontier quitted Prevesa for Athens yesterday at 9 o'clock in the morning on board the Royal yacht "Amphitrite."

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 57.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 2.*)

(No. 75.)
My Lord, *Athens, March* 21, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Representatives of Greece at the Mixed Commission, lately sitting at Prevesa, have to-day arrived in Athens.

A Council was held yesterday wherein it was resolved to appeal to the Great Powers for their mediation, and a Circular despatch carrying out this intention will, it is expected, be to-morrow dispatched by post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 58.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 2.*)

(No. 76.)
My Lord, *Athens, March* 21, 1879.

I HAVE had the honour to inform your Lordship by telegraph to-day that the negotiations at Prevesa have been broken off, and that the Greek Commissioners have returned to Athens.

Having understood from Sir Henry Layard that the Porte was disposed to make a larger concession of territory to Greece in Thessaly than that just proposed by the Ottoman Commissioners, and which caused the rupture of the negotiations, I asked M. Delyanni whether he did not think the action of the Greek Agents had been somewhat precipitate, as very possibly the Ottoman Agents would, when what they offered was rejected as inadequate, have proposed a more considerable concession of territory.

His Excellency said that the Ottoman Agents had made no observations to lead the Greek Commissioners to suppose that any further concession would be proposed by the Porte, and when their Greek colleagues expressed their intention of closing the Conference and returning to Athens, no effort was made to induce them to remain longer at Prevesa, though something appeared to have been said about telegraphing to Constantinople. The usual visits of adieu were immediately made and returned, and General Soutzo and his colleagues left Prevesa the morning after the last meeting.

It is rumoured from Constantinople that the Porte is surprised at the sudden break-up of the Conferences.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 59.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 2.*)

(No. 6. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, March* 19, 1879.

I HAVE not ascertained whether the Austrian authorities alluded to in my despatch No. 4 of the 14th instant have come to some arrangement respecting the agrarian difficulties in the occupied provinces. As those at Ragusa appear to be very reticent on the subject, my information is only such as I can gather from travellers and others well acquainted with the subject. At all events, the question seems to be most

complicated and not likely to be settled off-hand. Indeed, I may safely say that the aspect of affairs in the Herzegovina is now again assuming a threatening appearance; and that, in spite of what the authorities may wish one to believe, an attempt at an insurrection is very probable, and would be certain were any encouragement given by Panslavist societies and other sympathizers.

As the question of land tenure in the Herzegovina has been the cause of so much trouble in Europe, and may at any time crop up again, a few remarks, the result of information I have been able to collect on the subject, may be of interest.

The usual amount formerly paid by the peasants or "kmets" in the Herzegovina to the Begs and Aghas who owned the land was a third of the produce, so that this due was generally known as the "tretina" (third). The amount, however, differed according to the custom of different districts, which now makes the question so complicated and difficult to deal with.

In some districts, for instance, it was as much as half; in others only a quarter. The Rayah having no written compact with the Beg or Agha, the latter was in a position to extort more than the customary amount when so inclined, and the Rayah had further to make a variety of gifts or perform a variety of services to his landlord, such as yearly gifts of cattle, cheese, butter, wood; and, further, forced labour when required.

Besides what was due to the Beg, the Government claimed not a small share of the Rayah's profits, such as the "decetina" or tithe of all produce, which during the last period of Turkish rule had been raised to an eighth.

The three kinds of cattle tax, viz., the "porez," of 15 to 20 piastres levied on every head of large cattle, the "resmi agnam," of 2 piastres a-head on small cattle, and the "donuzia" or hog tax. The "travarina," 4 piastres for every head of cattle pasturing in forests, &c., claimed by the State; 4 piastres levied on every plot of ground planted with the herb called "broc," that produces a red dye; 4 piastres on every beehive; the "rad," or labour-tax, of 25 piastres; "komora," a forced loan of horses; and the tax of 28 piastres levied on every male, from the baby in arms, in lieu of military service.

The two most galling taxes, especially from the brutality with which they were levied, were the "decetina" and "tretina," and the abolition of these was always a kind of watchword with the Bosnian and Herzegovinian Rayah insurgents.

It was not to be wondered at, after the occupation, when the Austrian authorities made known their determination to continue to enforce the payment of both these dues, that the news should have excited universal discontent.

Your Lordship will see what a task the Austrians, with a view to a settlement of their own claims, as well as to an adjustment of the existing differences between landlord and tenant, have set themselves; and how difficult it will be for them to satisfy both Beg and Rayah!

An attempt has been made to satisfy the former, but the latter has more sympathizers, and will give the most trouble.

It is by no means improbable that as the spring sets in some of the bolder spirits in Herzegovina may take to the mountains; and it is certain that the slightest encouragement from without might excite an insurrection at least as harassing as that which the Rayahs supported for nearly four years against the Turks, with this difference—that now the Mahommedans and Orthodox Greeks are ready to make common cause, as the feeling of all classes against the Austrians is one of fanatical hatred.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 60.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 2.*)

(No. 7. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, March* 19, 1879.

IN my despatch No. 4 of the 14th instant I mentioned that some arrangement had evidently been come to between the Austrian officials and the Rayahs in the Herzegovina, for the latter are now coming in great numbers for grain, which the Government is distributing gratis; but the fact still holds good that at one time, owing to the Austrians imposing a condition that every claimant to Government assistance should first consent to recognize all former rights of the landlord, the peasants ceased to avail themselves of

the offer, and that grain was bought by the same people from private stores and paid for in English sovereigns and Napoleons.

The quality of the grain, in some instances, has been very inferior—scarcely fit for use. This, however, is more the fault of the contractors than the Government, who pay liberal prices.

As spring has now set in, grain for seed will shortly have to be issued. It is feared that if no proper control is kept the seed will turn out useless, the result of which will prove disastrous to the poor next autumn.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 61.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 2.*)

(No. 8. Political.)
Ragusa, March 20, 1879.

My Lord,

I LEARN from a trustworthy source that quite lately (for reasons I cannot assign) six ex-insurgent Chiefs fled into Montenegro, and that several have sworn that they will not pay either the Austrians or the Begs.

In the district of Zubci the Turks are regretted, as their tyranny, it is alleged, was at least tempered with impotence; and, besides, the Porte was desirous to cultivate the goodwill of the population in the vicinity of Montenegro.

Thus it appears that the Austrians seem inclined to levy the dues without respect to local privileges and exemptions, whereby much discontent has lately been apparent in the newly-occupied province.

The attempt (if it ever was a serious one) to enforce the old feudal dues will prove a dead failure.

Around Trebinjé the negotiations fell to the ground when the Austrian authorities invited the Rayahs and the Aghas and Begs to come to terms as to the amount to be paid for their holdings. I now hear that the Begs are attempting to renew negotiations, and invoke Austrian help to vindicate what they claim to be their rights, appointing one Agha Scovic with full powers to contract with the Rayah tenants on their behalf.

Meanwhile, in the more remote districts bordering on Montenegro, a stubborn agreement is perceptible among the Rayahs to consent to no terms. In Zubci the matter is further complicated by a refusal to give up any more arms, for which, since the seizures at Trebinjé (reported in my despatch No. 1 of the 3rd instant), the Austrian authorities are everywhere seeking.

The Zubci people say that they have given up already the arms they have received from Montenegro; but as to their own hereditary arms, which they never gave up even to the Turks, they will surrender to no man. This may account for the flight of the six ex-insurgent Chiefs above mentioned.

It is evident that the Austrian authorities have been trying to coerce by withholding supplies from the returned refugees to these recalcitrant districts; but the Herzegovinians, when hard pressed, can rely on help from beyond the Montenegrin frontier, a fact which I have reason to know has recently come to the knowledge of the Austrian authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 62.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 2.*)

(No. 47. Political.)
Cettinjé, March 20, 1879.

My Lord,

SINCE my arrival here the Montenegrin authorities and the Austrian and Russian Representatives have given me their several explanations regarding the presence in Cettinjé of a certain number of Herzegovinian Christian Chiefs from the districts of Nevesigné and Gatseko.

The Montenegrins and M. Speyer, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, assert that these

Chiefs have sought the protection and support of Prince Nicholas against the injustice and oppression of the Austrian authorities, who are endeavouring by coercion to force the Herzegovinians to submit to laws which are more onerous than those which drove them to rebel against the Turks. The Chiefs complain that having declined to become the tenants of Mahommedan landlords on condition of giving them a third of the yearly produce, the Austrian Government has stopped the distribution of grain and other food which had been found necessary for the present subsistence of the peasants who have returned to districts devastated during the past three years; and, in order to prevent the escape of these peasants, no circulation from village to village is permitted without the observance of many vexatious passport formalities.

It is affirmed that in the district of Gatseko alone these measures have caused the death by starvation of upwards of thirty persons, and that the fact has been officially recorded by the Austrian Medical Staff; but still the peasants are determined not to accept a position which will be an aggravation of their original state.

The Chiefs have asked Prince Nicholas, as he declines to permit their residence in Montenegro, to help them to remove to Albania or to any other country where they can escape Austrian rule.

Colonel Thoemmel, the Austro-Hungarian Minister President, admits the above to be a correct version of the complaint of the Chiefs; only he denies their facts.

He says that these Chiefs have been from the commencement of the insurrection, and still are, the paid instruments of the Slavophile Societies. That their object is to obtain the confiscation of all Mahommedan rights to property, and to keep alive an agitation which has proved much more profitable to them than peaceful agricultural pursuits. Since the withdrawal of the Chiefs upwards of 200 peasants have concluded contracts with Mahommedan landlords, and that with approaching spring the hardships which had to be encountered by the people returning in mid-winter to deserted and pillaged homes are fast disappearing.

Colonel Thoemmel has had interviews with the Chiefs in the presence of the Montenegrin Minister of the Interior, and has carefully explained to them that the Austrian Government is in no way forcing the Christians as to the terms of their contracts with the landlords, but that it is determined to put an end to public agitation and lawlessness.

He says that, as far as the Prince is personally concerned, the attitude observed by Montenegro has been perfectly correct, but, in a Principality where every man considers himself a political agent for the propagation of Slavophile ideas, it is difficult to suppress intrigues which are causing considerable uneasiness to the Austrian authorities in Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

I share Colonel Thoemmel's opinion, that the action of the Russian Representatives here, and in the neighbouring States with regard to the proceedings of the Herzegovinian Chiefs, can very well be compared to that of the Turkish authorities and the Albanian League. The central Governments can disown everything done, but nothing occurs without the knowledge and permission of the local officials.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 63.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 2.*)

(No. 50. Political.)
Cettinjé, March 23, 1879.

My Lord,

HAVING arrived here on the evening of the 18th, the Prince consented to see me next day, although his only sister was on her deathbed, in order to express to me himself the anxiety he felt to put an end to what appeared to be inexhaustible misunderstandings between the Montenegrin Government and the Turkish authorities in North Albania.

I was glad to find his Highness animated with the same spirit of conciliation which it has been my good fortune to note each time I have had to appeal to him personally; and, on the present occasion, it was more satisfactory, as, from my conversations with the Montenegrin Ministers, I was led to expect a determination on the part of his Highness to observe a reserve insuring complete failure for the errand upon which I had come.

I explained to the Prince how the telegram which he had addressed to the Sultan

had remained unanswered, and I trusted he would not decline to adopt the course followed by Roumania and Servia in commencing their diplomatic relations with Turkey. I refrained from pressing upon his Highness the question of receiving Osman Bey or any other functionary as Turkish Consul at Podgoritza, as I had ascertained that both the Austrian and Russian Governments had admitted that he was justified in refusing to tolerate an Agent whose presence would be calculated in every way to leave upon the minds of the newly annexed populations a sense of temporary change only.

His Highness, however, expressed to me regret at having been obliged to act in an apparently uncourteous manner towards the Turks through their belief that Prince Lobanoff was entitled, without consulting the Montenegrin Government, to enter into an engagement on its behalf. He had, on his side, been much moved at the silence with which the Sultan had treated his telegram, copy of which I have the honour to inclose herewith; but, in order to give a further proof of his desire to live in amity with his neighbours, he would ignore what his people believed was an attempt to humiliate him, and once more make a move towards securing the Sultan's friendship.

Montenegro is unfortunately too poor to be able to maintain representatives abroad, and must depend on its friends to discharge its obligations towards its neighbours. His Highness had, therefore, determined to ask the Russian Government to permit Prince Lobanoff to express to the Porte the desire of his Highness to enter into friendly and continuous intercourse with the Turkish Government, and to authorize his Excellency to represent, for the time being, Montenegro at Constantinople.

I will not trouble your Lordship with a recital of all the steps and attempts I resorted to to endeavour to obtain advances that would prove more satisfactory to the Turks; but the Prince and his Ministers have acquired sufficient western knowledge to make their concessions complete from the first, and not to follow the eastern habit of giving way by degrees.

As a personal favour to myself, and in the hope that the explanation would be made the most of, Prince Nicholas consented to permit Voïvoda Radonich to write a private letter to Aali Bey, the Second Imperial Commissioner at Scutari, and whose acquaintance the Foreign Secretary had made at Vir-Bazar, expressing regret at having learnt from me that Osman Bey's retirement from Podgoritza had been considered as implying a breaking off of relations between the two Governments, whilst the measure had been adopted on purely administrative grounds.

I have ventured to recommend very strongly that the Porte should avail itself of the opening now afforded for appointing without delay a representative here, so that the two Governments should disengage themselves from the influence of the jealousies and barren hopes which cannot be stifled in a day on the frontiers. The existence of a Turkish Minister or Chargé d'Affaires here would render it unnecessary for Montenegro to communicate with the Porte through the Russian Ambassador, especially as it is not desirous of following any exceptional course with Turkey, and as it has been made to understand that the Austrian Government will not consent that the Principality shall be represented in Vienna by M. Novikow.

It is also desirable that both Turkey and Montenegro should lose the habit of trusting to the good offices of their friends to smooth down the petty difficulties which they seem almost fond of raising, and, I believe, when once brought face to face, they will cease to be so tenacious regarding small matters as they will then comprehend the inutility of the trouble such conduct insures.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 63.

The Prince of Montenegro to the Sultan.

Cettigné, le $\frac{25 \text{ Janvier}}{6 \text{ Février}}$ 1879.

(Télégraphique.)

MES troupes ont évacué hier les localités qui devaient faire retour aux États de Sa Majesté, et je suis entré en possession de celles qui ont été annexées à la Principauté. De part et d'autre la remise s'est opérée avec le meilleur ordre et les troupes ont fait l'échange avec la courtoisie qui leur est mutuellement inspirée par l'admiration qu'elles se sont acquises dans les jours d'épreuves.

Ayant l'honneur de porter ce fait à la connaissance de votre Majesté je fais des vœux ardents pour que la Divine Providence bénisse la paix heureusement établie en la rendant durable et bienfaisante pour les deux peuples.

No. 64.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 51. Political.)

Cettinjé, March 24, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that yesterday morning Madame Gorda Plamenatz, the only sister of the Prince of Montenegro, died after a long and painful illness.

Prince Nicholas has availed himself of this death of one of his nearest relatives to order the abolition of the lamentations, fastings, and other mourning ceremonies which have hitherto prevailed in Montenegro, and which were a cause of great expense on afflicted families. The example given by His Highness will be sufficient to make the Montenegrins abandon without a murmur ancient customs touching their innermost feelings.

This morning Madame Plamenatz was buried in the Cettinjé Monastery with all the ceremonies required by the modern formalities of the Orthodox Church, and my colleagues and myself formed part of the funeral cortége.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 65.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 52. Political.)

Cettinjé, March 24, 1879.

My Lord,

ONE of the principal causes for the constant misunderstandings between the Montenegrin Government and the authorities in North Albania is the fact that the frontiers of the Principality have still to be defined by a Delimitation Commission under the Treaty of Berlin.

Through an interpretation of the wording of an Article of the Vir-Bazar Protocol, and by a pretended rectification of the Austrian Staff map of the locality, the Imperial Commissioners and Hussein Pasha wish to force back the Montenegrin military posts on the western shores of Lake Scutari to within a very short distance of the original Montenegrin frontiers, and thus come before the Delimitation Commission as holders of disputed territory.

The Prince naturally opposes this retrocession, and is supported in his view by the Austrian Minister, Colonel Thoemmel, who was the person at Berlin who took a most active part in indicating the principal points of the new frontiers.

Under these circumstances, I am of opinion that the time has now arrived for the commencement of the final work of delimitation. The season is sufficiently advanced to permit the Commission to carry out its work in the Vilayet of North Albania, and no obstacles are likely to be raised by the inhabitants. Questions requiring long discussion are, however, sure to be brought forward by the two immediately interested Governments, and by the time these are settled spring will have sufficiently advanced to allow of the Commission to continue its work in the more mountainous regions, whilst the most important portion of the frontier will have been definitively marked out, and all uncertainties of possession by the Scutari authorities will have disappeared.

I have spoken both to the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs and to Colonel Thoemmel about securing the establishment of the Demarcation Commission at once, and they agree with me that it is practicable, and very desirable for it to terminate its work on the side of the Vilayet of Scutari; but, lest their numerous occupations should prevent them from taking immediate action on the subject, I venture to suggest to your Lordship that a step should be made in Vienna (Austria having generally taken the initiative in Montenegrin affairs) for convoking the assembly of the Commission.

I understand that most of the Governments intend their representatives in these countries to take a share in the work of the Commission, but I would humbly recommend that your Lordship should not adopt the same course with reference to myself. I think an English military officer would be more fit and capable for the work, and in this manner my present and future position here and at Scutari would not be affected by the decisions concerning the frontiers, which are sure in many ways to give dissatisfaction to one or the other of these countries.

I would, however, be prepared to assist the officer who may be appointed, in a confidential manner, with the advice which my local knowledge and experience might afford; and perhaps your Lordship may think it right for his instructions to contain a recommendation to apply to me in case of need.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 66.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 180.)
Vienna, March 23, 1879.

My Lord,

COUNT ANDRASSY, to whom I had communicated the substance of your Lordship's telegram to Lord Dufferin of the 21st, told me last evening that he entirely concurred in all the views expressed in it, with, perhaps, the exception of making the adoption of a mixed occupation entirely dependent upon the consent of the Porte, which it may not be possible to obtain; but he gave this as a first impression, and not at all as a definitive opinion.

He agrees with your Lordship in considering that the Turks must contribute their contingent to the military force, and that they must retain every right possessed by them under the Treaty, and also that the mixed occupation must be looked upon as being in pursuance and in accordance with the Treaty of Berlin, and in no sense a modification of it.

I observed that unless the consent of the Porte to the mixed occupation were obtained, it seemed very questionable whether it could be represented as being in accordance with the Treaty or with the rights of the Sultan's Government.

I understand M. Novikow to have expressed a doubt whether his Government contemplate the Turks contributing to the occupying force, as their telegram suggested the measure as a means of preventing the entry of the Turkish troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 67.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 183. Confidential.)
Vienna, March 25, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram of the 22nd, suggesting that I should speak to Count Andrassy in favour of allowing natives of Bosnia to be regarded as Turkish subjects when out of that province.

I had already spoken to his Excellency in that sense, and I had pointed out that it would not only be inconvenient, but also contrary to all previous practice, to regard a Mussulman population as coming within the application of the Capitulations. The mere fact of a foreigner becoming Mussulman has always been held to place him under the direct jurisdiction and protection of the Sultan's Government, as had often been found by Hungarian and Austrian refugees, and I represented that there could not be stronger evidence than this against extending to born Mahommedan subjects of the Sultan the extra-territorial privileges enjoyed by foreigners in Turkey.

Baron Calice told me this afternoon that Count Andrassy did not propose that the Bosnians should be in all respects treated as Austrian subjects; but, as I had the honour to report the other day, he wished to provide against their being made to suffer for any course they may have followed during recent events, by a special agreement which he is willing to come to with the Porte, instead of being put into the Convention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 68.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 184. Confidential.)
Vienna, March 25, 1879.

My Lord,

BARON CALICE informs me that Count Andrassy has returned no written answer to the Russian proposal of a mixed occupation.

His Excellency considers it indispensable that the Turks should contribute their contingent, and he would, I believe, be disposed to regard their doing so in the light of a consent to the measure, without calling upon them for a direct sanction for it.

My French colleague, the Marquis de Vogué, has also told me that the Emperor, at a farewell dinner to him two days ago, spoke with the greatest exultation of the Russians having fallen into the scheme of a mixed occupation, but had added, very emphatically, that it was essential for the Turks to take part in it.

The Emperor had at the same time expressed to my colleague his earnest hope that the French Government would unite in sending their contingent, and Count Andrassy had spoken to him in the same strain.

M. de Vogué, who, like most of the French, is apt to look upon Count Andrassy as having no opinion but such as is inspired by Prince Bismarck, asked me whether I believed his Excellency to be really sincere in this wish.

I said I did not in the slightest degree doubt it; for the Count had spoken so strongly in the same sense to myself, with the view of getting your Lordship to urge the French Government not to stand aloof, that there could not be a question of his sincerity, and all suspicion on the subject would, I was sure, be quite misplaced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 69.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 185. Confidential.)
Vienna, March 25, 1879.

My Lord,

A SEARCHING inquiry has been made into the publication of your Lordship's despatch to Lord Augustus Loftus of the 26th January in the "Correspondence Politique," with a view of ascertaining whether any one connected with the Imperial Foreign Office or the Press Bureau had been guilty of a breach of confidence.

The result has been to satisfy those charged with the investigation that the document was not procured here; and the impression is that, as the editor originally stated, he procured it from Constantinople, probably, it is thought, from one of the foreign Representatives to whom it had been forwarded by his Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 70.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 187. Confidential.)
Vienna, March 30, 1879.

My Lord,

COUNT ANDRASSY would greatly deprecate any hesitation on the part of the Porte to maintain garrisons along the Balkan frontier separating Bulgaria from East Roumelia.

He is aware that Reouf Pasha has declared it to be beyond the resources of Turkey to keep up an army of 100,000 men, which would be required for the defence of that frontier, and that the real line of defence must commence from Adrianople; but his Excellency regards this argument as being of very little value, for the garrisons are not required for the purpose of resisting an invasion or the attacks of a regular army, but are required to maintain the separation of the Principality of Bulgaria and the Province of East Roumelia, as established by the Treaty of Berlin. He does not think it possible

to suppose that the European Powers would tolerate an open invasion of Turkey by the Principality which they had just called into existence under certain conditions, but in consequence of the Sultan being, to his infinite regret, deprived of the right of maintaining his troops within East Roumelia, it is only by keeping moderate garrisons along the Balkans that we can hope to see the separation of that province from Bulgaria carried out, and if the Porte should not now avail itself of this right, we must be prepared very shortly to find that Russia had practically succeeded in securing the fulfilment of all it had proposed by the Treaty of San Stefano.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 71.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 188. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 30, 1879.*

COUNT ANDRASSY, in speaking yesterday of the expected completion of the Organic Statute for East Roumelia, said that, although there was in it much that did not at all coincide with his own views, he was determined not to suggest any modifications or omissions.

It was so important to have the Statute promulgated as soon as possible that he would do nothing to retard it, but would trust that many of the minute details which he thought had been unwisely introduced—some of them being quite unsuited to the country—would necessarily become dead letters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 72.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 189. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 30, 1879.*

AS instructed by your Lordship, I have told Count Andrassy that your Lordship had written to the Earl of Dufferin in the sense he desired about the decisions of the Boundary Commissions being taken by majorities.

His Excellency thanks your Lordship for having complied with his wishes in a matter to which he attaches importance, and said that M. Waddington had also expressed himself warmly in favour of his views, though he would not have gone so far as to admit the reference from the Commissioners to their Governments.

The Count remarked that this concession had been adopted solely in the hope of obtaining the acquiescence of Russia, but in spite of it he was afraid he was not to receive the support of the German Government, and that he must be satisfied if Prince Bismarck did not absolutely oppose his proposal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 73.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 190. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 30, 1879.*

HAVING seen in a telegram from Berlin published in the newspapers that Prince Battenberg, who had latterly been supposed unwilling to be elected Prince of Bulgaria, was now understood to be ready to accept the honour, I asked Count Andrassy what he knew about it.

He said that he had never had the slightest doubt of the Prince's acceptance if

elected, for his father had long ago intimated to him that the post, if offered, would not be declined.

He appears to look upon the Prince's election almost as a certainty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 74.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 191. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 30, 1879.*

I HAVE asked Count Andrassy what he proposed to do when he received from Athens the application, understood to be already dispatched, for the mediation of the Powers upon the Turco-Greek frontier question, which the two Governments have themselves been unable to solve.

He said that it seemed very difficult to decline this mediation or arbitration, and he did not think that the Powers could materially recede from insisting on the general adoption of the line recommended at Berlin.

He believed, however, that this might be done so as still to leave Janina to Turkey by following, as I understood him, the valley of the Kalemos only so far as to let a line drawn direct to the Peneus leave that town to the north of it.

His Excellency appears to me a good deal embarrassed by conflicting considerations on this question. On the one side, he is aware of the mixed character of the populations, and of the repugnance of a large number of them to be handed over to Greece, as well as of the renewed agitation that may be produced by it among the Albanians; but, on the other hand, he is afraid of appearing less solicitous for the interests of Greece than the Governments of France and Italy, the former of which especially so warmly espoused its cause.

At the same time, he derides the argument brought forward at the Congress by M. Waddington, who assumed that Turkey by making this concession would secure the tranquillity of the frontier or put an end to all agitation by Greece for further extension, unless the Powers obtain, as they are entitled to do, some security for her future correct behaviour towards her neighbour.

I said that his object would probably be attained if the Powers were to intimate to the Porte that if it should make the required concessions they would not interfere with its action in the event of future provocation from the side of Greece.

He answered that something of the kind seemed to be called for.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 75.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 31. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, March 24, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Ottoman despatch-boat "Fevaïd" left Suda Bay on the 22nd instant with a battalion of Mustahfiz on board for Mersina and St. Jean d'Acre.

The same day the Ottoman transport "Babel" left for Rethymo and Candia in this island. At Rethymo she will take on board a battalion of Mustahfiz, and at Candia two battalions of Mustahfiz, with whom she will proceed to Mundania in the Sea of Marmora. Three of these battalions numbered nearly 900 men each, the other but 500.

There now remain but eleven battalions of troops in Crete, averaging between 500 and 600 men each.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 76.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 55.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March 27, 1879.*

IN obedience to your Lordship's instruction which I have received by telegraph, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of a note which I have addressed to M. de Giers, expressing the lively satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the commutation of the sentence pronounced against Osman Bey at Philippopolis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 76.

The Earl of Dufferin to M. de Giers.

M. le Secrétaire d'Etat, *St. Petersburgh, March* $\frac{15}{27}$, 1879.

WITH reference to your Excellency's note of the 24th instant, I have great pleasure in informing you that I have received telegraphic instructions from the Marquis of Salisbury to express the lively satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learned that His Majesty the Emperor has been graciously pleased to commute the sentence pronounced against Osman Bey at Philippopolis.

Thanking your Excellency for the prompt attention which has been given to my representations in this matter, I avail, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 77.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 362.)
My Lord, *Paris, March 29, 1879.*

BY a telegram dated the day before yesterday, your Lordship directed me to obtain, if possible, an answer to a question asked by the Earl of Dufferin at the end of a telegram dated the 24th instant, and marked No. 17.

I understand your Lordship to refer to Lord Dufferin's statement in that telegram, that it would be a great advantage to him to know, with regard to Rustem Pasha, how far he could depend on General Chanzy to act loyally with him in pressing this and the other suggested arrangements on the Russian Government.

I am not sure that I have a distinct idea of what the arrangements in question are. I am not in possession of a copy of Lord Dufferin's despatch No. 31 of the 19th instant, to which he specially refers; but I presume that a general knowledge of the present state of his Excellency's communications with the Russian Government respecting Eastern Roumelia may be gathered from the telegram No. 17 already mentioned, and from the previous telegrams from him (No. 11 of the 19th instant, No. 14 of the 21st instant, No. 15 of the 23rd instant, and No. 18 of the 24th instant), which I find in the Confidential print which your Lordship was so good as to send me with your despatch No. 395 of the 26th instant.

I am not, however, sure that I should be justified in making M. Waddington acquainted with the details of these communications; and I should certainly not be able to draw up, from the materials in my possession, a trustworthy statement of arrangements finally approved by Her Majesty's Government, for which it would be desirable to obtain the support of the French Ambassador at St. Petersburg. If a distinct statement of definite arrangements were submitted to M. Waddington, he might be disposed to consider favourably a request to him to instruct General Chanzy to support Lord Dufferin in pressing them on the acceptance of the Russian Government.

I ascertained from M. Waddington late last night that the French Government still adheres firmly to the appointment of Rustem Pasha as Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia, and that General Chanzy has instructions to that effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 78.

Carathéodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, April 2.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le 19 Mars, 1879.*

VOTRE Excellence trouvera ci-joint l'extrait d'un Rapport de nos Commissaires au sein de la Commission Européenne de la Roumélie Orientale ayant trait aux démonstrations hostiles dont M. Stoeff, Inspecteur des Finances, a été l'objet à Hasskeui et à Tchirpan.

Cet incident, relaté en détail dans le Protocole No. 38 de la Commission, est d'autant plus regrettable que le Général Stolipine a fait entendre dans une de ses conversations qu'il craignait pour l'avenir des actes d'une nature plus grave encore.

Cet état de choses cause au Gouvernement Impérial de légitimes préoccupations. Aussi ai-je cru devoir en entretenir plus d'une fois MM. les Représentants des Grandes Puissances à Constantinople, et je prie votre Excellence d'appeler, de son côté, la sérieuse attention de sa Seigneurie Lord Salisbury sur la nécessité qu'il y a de remédier à cette situation.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) AL. CARATHÉODORY.

No. 79.

Carathéodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, April 2.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 20 Mars, 1879.*

VOTRE Excellence connait les entraves de toutes sortes apportées à la tâche de la Commission Européenne de la Roumélie Orientale. Ces entraves sans cesse renouvelées ont déterminé nos Délégués à rédiger et à soumettre préalablement à l'appréciation de la Sublime Porte un mémoire qu'ils se proposent de lire en Commission pour signaler à l'attention de leurs collègues les dangers résultant d'une situation qui, en menaçant de se prolonger indéfiniment, pourrait avoir les suites les plus funestes.

Le Gouvernement Impérial n'a pu qu'approuver entièrement les considérations développées dans ce mémoire, mais il a pensé que la question posée ainsi par ses Commissaires, loin d'accélérer les travaux de la Commission, ne ferait, au contraire, qu'entraîner celle-ci dans des discussions longues indéfinies.

Nous avons, en conséquence, jugé qu'il serait plus convenable et plus utile à l'intérêt qui s'attache à l'achèvement rapide de l'œuvre de la Commission que le mémoire dont il s'agit fût communiqué directement aux Grandes Puissances.

J'ai donc l'honneur de le transmettre, ci-joint en copie, à votre Excellence, et la prie de vouloir bien y appeler la sérieuse attention de sa Seigneurie Lord Salisbury.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. CARATHÉODORY.

No. 80.

Carathéodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, April 2.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Le 20 Mars, 1879.*

Par une note du 11 de ce mois, Mr. Malet nous informait que la flotte Anglaise venait de recevoir l'ordre de repasser les Détroits des Dardanelles. J'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-joint, pour votre information, copie de cette note.

A la suite de cette communication, notre auguste Maître a adressé à Sa Majesté la Reine le télégramme que vous trouverez également ci-près en copie.

La Sublime Porte s'associe entièrement aux sentiments exprimés dans le message Impérial; elle est reconnaissante au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique du concours qu'il lui a prêté dans les circonstances les plus difficiles pour assurer la sécurité du pays.

Heureux de pouvoir toujours compter sur une amitié à laquelle nous attachons un haut prix, nous vous prions d'être auprès de Lord Salisbury l'interprète de ces sentiments du Gouvernement Impérial.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. C. CARATHÉODORY.

Inclosure in No. 80.

His Majesty the Sultan to Her Majesty the Queen.

(Télégraphique.) *Le 17 Mars*, 1879.

L'AMBASSADE Britannique a fait part à mon Gouvernement de l'ordre que votre Majesté a bien voulu donner à la flotte de quitter le Golfe d'Ismidt pour sortir du Détroit des Dardanelles.

A cette occasion, je ne saurais assez exprimer à votre Majesté tout le prix que j'attache aux relations amicales qui ont de tout temps existé entre les deux Etats et à l'intérêt sympathique qu'elle a bien voulu me témoigner en s'associant aux efforts déployés durant les derniers graves événements pour assurer la sécurité du pays.

C'est dans ces sentiments qu'en exprimant à votre Majesté ma reconnaissance personnelle, je fais des vœux ardents pour la gloire et la prospérité de nos deux Etats et pour le raffermissement des rapports qui les unissent si heureusement.

No. 81.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 2*, 1879, 1·15 A.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 27, we cannot say anything definite with respect to mode of Turk's participation, as we are dependent on the conditions they may affix to their consent to the proposal of mixed occupation. But to me it seems that Bourgas alone would not be sufficient to assert the dominion given to them by Treaty, and that some place on the western frontier between Roumelia and Bulgaria must be added. It should be remembered that Turkish troops can travel from Adrianople almost up to the frontier of Roumelia in twelve hours by railway. The fear, therefore, of collision is almost visionary. They will stop in no populous place.

No. 82.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(No. 28. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 1*, 1879.

THE Emperor wishes me to let you know that Stolipine has telegraphed to him this morning that the population at Bourgas is more excited against the Turks than anywhere else, and that it would be most dangerous to send them there. But as he had assented to the arrangement he would not withdraw his word. I told him that though we might press the arrangement on its merits, we would not wish to surprise him into a concession unawares.

I imagine their proposal will be to place contingents under immediate orders of Governor-General and majority of Commission, and to divide province into "rayons," each contingent to control a separate "rayon." They would like to occupy north-east, to be in communication with Varna, but would give England her choice of districts. Turks to occupy south and south-western districts; Austria and Italy interior, unless England preferred Ichtiman or Philippopolis for herself.

No. 83.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tirnova, April 2*, 1879.

FOLLOWING are the principal modifications of the Russian programme proposed by Committee of Revision to the Assembly:—

Firstly, hereditary succession, limited to the male line; secondly, Civil List of the Prince reduced to 600,000 fr.; thirdly, public proselytism forbidden; fourthly, Great Assembly done away with; fifthly, a Senate of twenty-five members, chiefly

No. 80*.

Carathéodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, April 2.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 31 Mars*, 1879.

LE Ministre de Sa Majesté Britannique vient de communiquer à la Sublime Porte que l'idée de l'occupation mixte de la Roumélie Orientale avait déjà obtenu l'assentiment des Grandes Puissances; qu'à l'exception de l'Allemagne et de la France toutes les autres se sont déclarées prêtes à y prendre part; que le corps d'occupation serait de 10,000 hommes et qu'il serait placé sous les ordres de la Commission Internationale dont les pouvoirs seraient prolongés d'un an. Les instructions de Mr. Malet portent, d'ailleurs, que, dans la pensée des Gouvernements amis, cette mesure n'a d'autre but que de faciliter la tâche qui incomberait au Gouvernement Ottoman aussitôt après l'évacuation de cette province par les armées Russes, tâche que les circonstances semblent avoir rendue très-délicate, et de prévenir l'explosion d'une rébellion contre l'autorité du Sultan. L'armée Ottomane occuperait, de son côté, quelques points importants et d'un abord facile sur les frontières de la province; et, grâce au concours moral et matériel de l'Europe, la Turquie se trouverait ainsi à même de s'épargner un déploiement de force considérable et les fortes dépenses qui en seraient la conséquence.

La Sublime Porte a attaché une valeur d'autant plus grande à ces explications du Ministre de Sa Majesté Britannique, qu'elles tendent à démontrer que le désir des Grandes Puissances est de lui prêter dans cette conjoncture aussi leur aide efficace pour l'exécution des stipulations du Traité de Berlin concernant la Roumélie Orientale. A en juger, en effet, par tout ce qui nous revient, la situation de cette province présenterait une gravité qu'il importe de ne point dissimuler afin de dégager entièrement la responsabilité du Gouvernement Ottoman. Ayant fait de l'exécution du Traité de Berlin l'objet de ses plus constants efforts, la Sublime Porte a non-seulement assumé en pleine connaissance de cause tous les devoirs que ce grand acte international lui imposait vis-à-vis de la Roumélie Orientale; mais elle a la conscience de n'avoir rien négligé pour prévenir toute préoccupation de ce côté. Par contre, elle s'est vue déjà à plusieurs reprises dans la nécessité de signaler à l'attention des Cabinets amis une série de faits dont l'effet immanquable devait être de préparer dans cette province les éléments d'une crise regrettable. Contrairement aux stipulations du Traité, la population non Bulgare s'est trouvée en Roumélie Orientale en butte à une persécution systématique que rien n'a pu faire fléchir. Les travaux de la Commission qui, d'après le Traité, auraient dû être terminés dans trois mois, ont rencontré des obstacles inattendus. L'Administration Financière de la province qui devait être remise à la Commission, a été en fait soustraite à son autorité. Et, pendant qu'on se livrait à une distribution d'armes sur une grande échelle et à la formation hâtive de nombreuses milices, les autorités qui retenaient en mains l'Administration Civile de la province montraient envers les agitateurs une condescendance qui encourageait bien des mauvaises passions chez une grande partie de la population. Les choses en arrivèrent à un tel point que l'on a vu s'organiser sur plusieurs points des manifestations turbulentes pour déclarer que la volonté des Bulgares était de s'opposer à l'exécution du Traité de Berlin et à l'œuvre de la Commission Européenne. Sans se laisser émouvoir par ces agitations factices, la Sublime Porte n'en persista pas moins dans la voie que le Traité lui avait tracée; et, afin d'assurer le rétablissement du fonctionnement régulier de l'Administration Provinciale, le Gouvernement Impérial faisait choix d'un Gouverneur-Général qui, à part une exception, réunit les suffrages de tous les Cabinets. Un peu plus tard, les armées Russes ayant évacué le Vilayet d'Andrinople, la Sublime Porte s'attacha à y réinstaller ses autorités sans donner lieu à aucune plainte, à aucun désordre; une amnistie générale jeta le voile sur tous les méfaits commis dans l'intervalle, et toutes les mesures de la nouvelle Administration furent empreintes d'un esprit de modération qu'on ne saurait méconnaître. Si donc, malgré cela, l'agitation n'en a pas moins continué dans la Roumélie Orientale, et si, à l'approche de l'évacuation Russe, on cherche à y épouvanter les populations par l'idée du retour du Vali Ottoman, il serait juste de n'y voir que la continuation de ce même système de manœuvres et d'intrigues au profit duquel les fauteurs de troubles ont su si bien exploiter la crédulité populaire.

On a peine à s'expliquer, en effet, comment et pourquoi la rentrée du Vali Ottoman pourrait inspirer la moindre inquiétude aux populations Roumélioles. L'organisation élaborée par la Commission Européenne pour tous les services adminis-

tratifs de la province est maintenant comme. Elle est conçue dans le sens le plus libéral; elle assure à la Roumélie Orientale une autonomie administrative des plus complètes. Au fond, toute l'administration est confiée à la population elle-même; l'ordre n'y doit être maintenu que par une gendarmerie et une milice locale. Aucune intervention illégitime de l'autorité centrale n'est à craindre, et le Représentant du Sultan y trouvera ses pouvoirs si bien réglés et si rigoureusement définis, qu'il n'est après tout chargé que de faire fonctionner le mécanisme administratif sans qu'il se puisse permettre le moindre excès, la moindre velléité d'arbitraire. Indépendamment des garanties morales que doit présenter dans la personne du Gouverneur-Général un choix approuvé par toute l'Europe, la population trouve donc dans les principes organiques mêmes de son nouveau Statut les garanties les plus sûres et les plus efficaces. Le retour du régime Ottoman et la sphere d'action de ce Vali se trouvant ainsi parfaitement limités et acceptés par toute l'Europe, il semble qu'il soit superflu d'insister davantage pour faire voir combien les frayeurs auxquelles on essaie de faire croire sont difficiles à admettre et à expliquer. Que si maintenant on suppose que, rebelle à toute évidence, l'esprit d'une partie de la population Rouméliote se trouve en proie à des idées toutes autres qu'on a peine même à concevoir, il y a lieu de craindre à plus forte raison que la présence d'un corps d'occupation étranger ne constitue matière à des interprétations qui iraient à l'encontre du but qu'on se propose. Rien ne serait plus facile aux agitateurs que d'interpréter cette démarche comme une preuve de faiblesse de l'Empire et du désir de l'Europe de modifier les stipulations du Traité de Berlin; et, une fois entraînées dans cette voie, les populations Roumélioles pourraient être amenées à penser qu'elles ont tout à espérer et rien à redouter. Aussi, en présence de cette éventualité qui après tout n'est pas improbable et des graves inconvénients qu'elle ne manquerait pas d'amener, la Sublime Porte ne pense pas inutile de présenter aux Cabinets amis certaines observations sur la manière dont on pourrait tirer profit de la mesure proposée, sans donner prétexte aux inconvénients signalés plus haut et de manière à sauvegarder l'esprit et la lettre du Traité de Berlin. La prolongation des pouvoirs de la Commission pendant un an et la présence de ce corps dans la province pour aider le Vali, par des délibérations prises à la majorité des voix, à mettre pendant ce temps à exécution la nouvelle organisation, suffiraient pour entourer la nouvelle Administration de tout le prestige moral qu'on pourrait désirer. D'un autre côté, l'armée Ottomane se bornerait à occuper immédiatement Bourgas, un point du côté d'Ichtiman et quelque autre point d'un accès facile, sauf à occuper successivement, et à mesure que les circonstances le permettront sans lutte et sans effusion de sang, les autres points qu'il serait jugé nécessaire de fortifier sur les Balkans après que, bien entendu, la Commission de la Délimitation aura achevé son travail. D'ailleurs, et en présence de la gravité des événements, la Sublime Porte n'est pas disposée à faire de la personnalité de son Représentant dans la province une difficulté insurmontable. Et, si l'Europe trouve nécessaire et indispensable de faire précéder l'entrée du Vali Ottoman par une période de transition, la Sublime Porte ne s'oppose pas à ce qu'un Lieutenant du Vali, sur le choix duquel les Puissances s'entendront avec elle, prenne et conserve l'administration de la province pendant tout le temps pour lequel les pouvoirs de la Commission auront été prorogés. Ces mesures semblent pour le moment à la Sublime Porte de nature à calmer les inquiétudes les moins justifiées, et rien ne serait plus facile que de convenir d'un commun accord de leur exécution.

En se plaçant dans cet ordre d'idées, la Sublime Porte est d'avis que sa proposition est non-seulement de nature à ne rien ôter à l'efficacité morale de la mesure arrêtée par les Puissances en principe, mais qu'elle sauvegarde l'esprit du Traité aussi bien que tous les intérêts en cause, et qu'en même temps qu'elle donne aux populations Roumélioles le temps d'une réflexion plus mûre et servirait d'acheminement à l'établissement définitif, elle dispense pour le moment les Cabinets amis, à la bonne volonté desquels la Sublime Porte rend hommage, des sacrifices et des embarras que peut-être la marche des événements mêmes pourrait leur épargner.

Veuillez communiquer ce qui précède à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, en ajoutant les considérations qui en découlent naturellement, et me faire connaître au plus tôt l'accueil que cette proposition aura trouvé auprès du Cabinet près duquel vous êtes accrédité.

Government nominees or *de jure* established; sixthly, all the members of the National Assembly elective; seventhly, the present Assembly of Notables, with the addition of sixty-two elective members, authorized to elect a Prince. Most of these amendments will be probably adopted by the Assembly.

No. 84.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 2.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Tirnova, April 2, 1879.*

ASSEMBLY, at the instigation of Liberal leaders, does not accept the Report of the Committee as a whole, but will discuss the Articles separately; the prohibition of proselytism will certainly be rejected, and the present Assembly will be authorized to elect a Prince without additional members.

No. 85.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 2.*)

(No. 33.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, April 2, 1879.*

PARTICULAR interest will attach to Jassy and Moldavia with reference to Jews during approaching general election. Does your Lordship authorize me to ask M. Triscott to act during that time, although post has been abolished?

No. 86.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 2.*)

(No. 129.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 2, 1879.*

LORD DONOUGHMORE telegraphs that General Stolipine is much annoyed at mixed occupation, saying that it is too late, and that people will not be satisfied except with annexation. He and the Pan-Slavist party will now work to render occupation nugatory. Schepelew goes to St. Petersburgh.

Mr. Palgrave says Gueshoff expects a good reception at Paris. I think it would be well if you could see him under present circumstances. He will be alone.

No. 87.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 2.*)

(No. 180.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 2, 1879.*

THE superior officers of militia and gendarmerie are named by the Sultan; the inferior by the Governor by delegation of Sultan.

This was considered the most practical method by our military advisers. The Turks accepted it. Do you wish any alteration? I will recollect your instructions about land, but it may be difficult to ascertain where there does or does not exist Government property.

No. 88.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 2.*)

(No. 285.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 2, 1879.*

SULTAN has informed me, through Sir A. Sandison, that he proposes to appoint an English Under-Secretary of State for Finance, that His Majesty requests Her

Majesty's Government to recommend a person fitted for the post. He would also have the Customs under him. He should be of a less silent disposition than Mr. Harrison, he must know French, be a man of energy. His Majesty wishes him not to be a Liberal. He is anxious about selection, as he wishes, when he mentions his decision to the Ministry, that the person selected should command their confidence.

No. 89.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 2.*)

(No. 286.) *Constantinople, April 2, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

GRAND VIZIER has been to see me this morning. I pointed out to him the extreme danger of the step he has taken in not frankly accepting mixed occupation. His Highness asked if I insisted upon acceptance without waiting for answer of Her Majesty's Government to the Circular telegraphed yesterday. I said I did; that I considered that retention of province under the dominion of the Sultan depended on acceptance, which must be made immediately, or it would be too late. His Highness requested me to say this to the Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day, and it would be considered by Council to-morrow, and settled one or other way. I understand, from other sources, that Porte will give way.

No. 90.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 2.*)

(No. 287.) *Constantinople, April 2, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs promises me that he will endeavour to unite Council this evening, or at latest to-morrow morning, and state that it is necessary to come to a decision at once regarding the mixed occupation. He will, in the meantime, telegraph to the Ambassador that the first Circular left the question open, and that the mixed occupation is not rejected.

He wishes the troops to go by sea to Bourgas, the Commission to act with or under the Vali, the duration of the occupation to be limited to one year; and that these and contingent questions should be fixed by a Protocol of the Ambassadors at Constantinople, in which, of course, the Porte would take part.

He states that the paragraph which implied acceptance of expedient was struck out of the Circular after he saw me on Monday.

No. 91.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 2.*)

(No. .) *Constantinople, April 2, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

GHALIB PASHA, the new Vali of Aleppo, with Mahsar Pasha and Mourian Effendi, Imperial Commissioners, left to-day for Alexandretta. Lieutenant Chermside also left for the same destination.

No. 92.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 2.*)

(No. .) *Constantinople, April 2, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

FRENCH Ambassador left to-day, with his family, for Marseilles, on leave of absence.

No. 93.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 2, 1879, 3·10 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 284 of yesterday, do not urge mixed occupation for the moment, without, however, renouncing it. But press very earnestly indeed on Sultan and Grand Vizier that in any case it is a matter of vital necessity that Porte should have troops necessary to occupy Ichtiman and Bourgas, and insist on knowing what number of troops are available for this purpose and where they now are.

No. 94.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 2, 1879, 4 P.M.*

THE difficulties surrounding mixed occupation are very great, and are not diminishing. The Turks have been persuaded by the French to refuse; and the interference of France at this juncture suggests foul play by some authority in the Russian Chancellerie.

I find that the Italians are very strongly averse to joining, though they will not give consent unless they do join; and they require us to pay the cost of transport, which is out of the question. It seems, therefore, probable that Italy will not join. I gather from you that, in the absence of both Italy and France, Russia would dislike the project.

Under these circumstances, please ascertain whether Russian Government would consider the following arrangement:—

Aleko to be named Governor at once instead of Rustem. Commission to be prolonged for a year. Turkish troops not to be summoned by Governor into interior of province during that time without consent of majority of Commission. Turks to occupy Bourgas and Ichtiman, but to abstain from occupying Balkans for a year.

This is a clear concession to Russia, for we are not bound to give up either right of Governor to summon troops at his own discretion or the occupation of the Balkans.

If Russia refuses, we shall probably have to fall back on the Treaty pure and simple.

No. 95.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul Sandwith.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 2, 1879, 6·40 P.M.*

MR. MALET reports that he communicated a summary of your despatch No. 16 of the 15th February to the Porte, and that Minister for Foreign Affairs said he would request that the question of customs revenues should be settled according to the terms of the engagement made.

No. 96.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 137.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April 2, 1879.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 27 of yesterday's date, in which you request instructions as to the language you should hold to the Emperor in case his Majesty renews his objections to a Turkish force being stationed at Ichtiman or in the Balkans. I understand that His Majesty's arguments are based on the risk that collisions might occur between the troops and the population of Eastern Roumelia if the former were allowed to traverse the country in the present excited state of public opinion there.

I have informed you, in reply, that it would be difficult for Her Majesty's Govern-

ment as yet to make proposals as to the exact manner in which the Turkish forces shall take part in a mixed occupation of the province, as so much is dependent on the conditions which the Porte may attach to their consent to the plan.

In my personal opinion, however, the location of a Turkish force at Bourgas alone would not be sufficient to assert the dominion over the province which is secured to the Sultan by the Treaty of Berlin, and I should consider that it would be equitable and politic that some other place on the western frontier of Eastern Roumelia, between that province and Bulgaria, should also be occupied by Turkish troops.

It should be borne in mind that the troops in question can be sent from Adrianople and across the province to the frontier in twelve hours by railway. There is no necessity that they should stop in any populous place by the way. The danger of a collision with the population seems therefore almost visionary.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 97.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 151. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, April 2, 1879.

My Lord,

IN proportion as the negotiations for a mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia progress, the difficulties which surround the plan become more evident. They are undoubtedly serious, and they do not tend to diminish.

I learn by telegraph from Constantinople this morning that the Porte has been induced by the representations of the French Ambassador to refuse its consent to the proposal. Irrespective of the direct bearing of this fact on the question, the interference of France at this juncture to thwart the avowed policy of Russia is suggestive of underhand opposition on the part of some authority in the Imperial Chancellerie at St. Petersburg.

The Italian Government again are showing themselves strongly averse to taking part in the occupation, but it is only on the condition of taking part that they will consent to the scheme. They seem to expect that the cost of the transport of any troops they may send shall be defrayed by Great Britain, a proposal which it is manifestly impossible to entertain. Upon the whole, therefore, it seems probable that no Italian contingent will be sent. But I understand from your Excellency's reports that in the absence of French and Italian contingents, the project of a mixed occupation would be unfavourably viewed at St. Petersburg.

Under these circumstances, I have requested your Excellency by telegraph to ascertain whether the following arrangement would be considered by the Russian Government:

Aleko Pasha to be at once appointed Governor of the province in place of Rustem Pasha. The European Commissioner to be prolonged for another year, during which time the Governor-General would not have the right to summon the Turkish troops into the interior of the province without the consent of the majority of the Commission. The Turkish forces to occupy Bourgas and Ichtiman, but to abstain for a year from taking up positions along the Balkan frontier.

The above is clearly in the nature of a concession to Russia, for there is no obligation on the Porte or the other Powers to abandon even temporarily the right of the Governor to summon the regular troops at his own discretion; or that of the Sultan to proceed to the occupation of the Balkan frontier as soon as the Russian army is withdrawn.

If the Russian Government reject the proposal, it may not improbably be necessary to fall back upon the execution, pure and simple, of the provisions of the Treaty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 98.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 458.)
Foreign Office, April 2, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to your telegram No. 284 of yesterday's date, I have to-day instructed you by telegraph to abstain for the present from urging further on the Porte the acceptance of the Russian proposal for a mixed occupation of the Province of Eastern Roumelia on its evacuation by the Russian troops, without, however, using any language to indicate a renunciation of the scheme. You should earnestly represent to the Sultan and to the Grand Vizier that, in any case, it is a matter of vital importance that a sufficient Turkish force should be held in readiness to occupy Bourgas and Ichtiman, and you should insist on being informed what number of troops are available for this purpose and where they are at present posted.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 99.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 462.)
Foreign Office, April 2, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE to state to you that I approve the language used by you at the audience which you had of the Sultan on the 8th instant, as reported in your despatch No. 221 of the 11th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 100.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 463.)
Foreign Office, April 2, 1879.

Sir,

IN reply to your despatch No. 235 of the 14th ultimo, I have to state to you that I approve the *note verbale* addressed by you to the Porte on the 8th instant, recommending the immediate dispatch to Aleppo of the Commission which should be charged with the task of investigating the case of the Christian prisoners at Marash and Aleppo, and with devising the measures to be adopted for the pacification of the country.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 101.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 464.)
Foreign Office, April 2, 1879.

Sir,

IN reply to your despatch No. 236 of the 14th ultimo, I have to state to you that I approve your having encouraged the proposal of the Grand Vizier to occupy Bourgas in force, and to concentrate troops at certain points on the southern and western frontiers of the Province of Eastern Roumelia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 102.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Clarke.

(No. 19.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 2, 1879.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 15 of the 27th ultimo, and I have to state to you that I approve the instructions given by you to Captain Gill, of which a copy was inclosed therein.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 103.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 175.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April 2, 1879.*

COUNT MÜNSTER informed me yesterday that the German Government took a great interest in the Greek question, and would be glad to know the views of Her Majesty's Government on the subject. The French Government had, his Excellency said, been strongly pressing upon them the adoption of their views, and, before giving an answer, they would be glad to be made acquainted with the opinion of Her Majesty's Government.

I said that I could not better explain our opinion than by showing him the instructions which had been sent to Lord Lyons as to the language which he was to use to M. Waddington, and I furnished him, confidentially, with a copy of my despatch to his Excellency No. 275 of the 5th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 104.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 176.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April 2, 1879.*

I INCLOSE herewith copy of a draft of a note from Count Andrassy to Baron Langenau, and of a telegram from Count Andrassy to Count Karolyi, both of which have been communicated to me by Count Karolyi. They embody the proposal of the Austro-Hungarian Government, that the majority principle shall be adopted in the Delimitation Commissions, but in such a shape that questions upon which the Commissioners cannot decide unanimously shall be referred in the first instance to the Cabinets, and in the case only of the Cabinets being unable to agree upon them shall be referred back to the Commissioners, when they shall be decided by a majority of votes.

I inclose also copy of a despatch to the Earl of Dufferin, from which you will see that Her Majesty's Government have substantially adopted this proposal.

Count Münster informed me yesterday that Count Andrassy had been very earnestly urging the German Government to join with him in pressing the Russian Government to assent to it.

His Excellency said that his own impression was, that the plan recommended by Count Andrassy at Berlin, which was no doubt similar to that which he had proposed to Her Majesty's Government, advocated the application of the majority principle, in the form to which I have referred, not only to the Delimitation Commission, but also to the Eastern Roumelian Commission which has lately been sitting at Philippopolis.

I said that Her Majesty's Government were entirely at one with that of Austria upon the subject, but that I believed Count Andrassy's proposal was limited to the Demarcation Commission. It was evident that those bodies could not be expected to make any substantial progress if a single veto could arrest their deliberations on each controverted point. But as regarded the Eastern Roumelian Commission its legislative duties were almost completed, and no discussion was now likely to arise in reference to the mode of deciding issues of that character. It was true that propositions were now before the Powers which contemplated investing the Commission with certain

executive functions, but I did not think that Count Andrassy's proposal was sufficiently stringent to be applied to it in this new character. It would not suffice to give to it, as an executive body, power to refer any point of difference to the Powers, and, in case of the Powers not agreeing, to decide in the last resort by a majority, because decisions that an executive body was required to make were often of a character that would not bear delay. It appeared to me, therefore, that Count Andrassy's plan should be applied only to the Delimitation Commissions, and that the Eastern Roumelian Commission, if it were called upon to perform any executive duties, should in that character decide simply by a majority of votes.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 105.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul Sandwith.

(No. 7.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 2, 1879.*

IN your despatch No. 16 of the 15th February last you report that the Council of Ministers at Constantinople had come to a decision unfavourable to the claim of the Cretan General Assembly, that a portion of the customs revenues of the island should be applied to meet the local expenditure of the financial year just expired and of that which has now commenced.

I have instructed Her Majesty's Minister at Constantinople to point out to the Turkish Government the impolicy of departing from the engagement taken upon this subject in Article 13 of the Firman recently issued by the Sultan.

Mr. Malet has informed me, in reply, that he had already communicated to the Porte a summary of your despatch above referred to, and that the Minister for Foreign Affairs had stated that he would request that the question should be settled in accordance with the terms of the arrangement.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 106.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 22. Political.)
My Lord, *Beyrout, March 15, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 21 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch No. 27 and of its inclosures, which I have to-day addressed to Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary at Constantinople, reporting on the proceedings of Midhat Pasha and the state of affairs in Syria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 106.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Beyrout, March 15, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 1st instant, I have the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that in addition to the three malefactors whose execution is therein reported, three other murderers have been hung in various parts of Syria, making altogether six capital executions within a few days.

Midhat Pasha arrived at Beyrout from Damascus on the evening of 2nd instant, and during an interview I had with his Highness on the following day he explained to me his scheme for the reorganization of the gendarmerie and police of Syria, and I have the honour to transmit herewith an extract from the "Hadikat-el-Akhbar," the semi-official gazette of Beyrout, giving the details of the proposed organization

which appears to me to be practical enough if the state of the finances will allow it to be carried out.

I beg to call your attention to the second part of Articles 1 and 6 of the new Regulations, by which all Ottoman subjects, Mussulmans or non-Mussulmans, are admissible into the new corps. The Vali further explained to me that a preference would be given to those who have served in the ranks of the regular army, as they will possess the advantage of being accustomed to the use of arms and to discipline; he also informed me that he had already applied to Constantinople for instructors to drill this new force, to which no doubt the high rate of pay offered will attract really efficient men.

The Governor-General left Beyrout on board the French mail-steamer on the 4th instant for Tripoli, where he remained a week, but I have as yet received no official report of his proceedings at that place; but I gather from private information that his Highness seems rather to have shown favour to Dervish Effendi Shambour and his party, against whom so many complaints have been made of late years, and to whose intrigues are chiefly attributed the disorders which have so long existed in that district. I trust, however, that the shrewdness of Midhat Pasha will soon enable him to discover the real character of these persons who have fed upon the troubles of the country, which I have reason to believe they secretly fomented for their own personal ends. I am told that the attitude assumed by the Vali towards this party has greatly encouraged the suffering populations, and especially the Christians of Akkar and other places.

The Governor-General left Tripoli on the 13th instant on board the French corvette "Bisson" (stationed on the coast of Syria) for Lattakia, where I am informed the inhabitants have prepared petitions to his Highness praying that he will adopt energetical measures to put an end to the state of anarchy and lawlessness prevailing in the surrounding country where in reality no Government exists.

Within the two Kaïmakamliks of Lattakia and Gebele, which are under the Mutaserif of Tripoli, there are from 800 to 1,000 villages governed by four Mudirs, who have between them a force of about twenty zaptiehs, which barely suffices to keep up communications between the Mudirs and their Chiefs the Kaïmakams, so that practically, with the exception of the places of residence of these officials, there does not exist any authority in the country with its numerous inhabitants of various and antagonistic races and religions, who are thus left to take care of themselves, with the by no means surprising result that brigandage, disorders, party fights, &c., are of such frequent occurrence that they attract little notice, but are looked upon as the natural order of things.

With a view to put an end to this most unsatisfactory state of affairs, I am informed that the inhabitants of these districts intend to suggest to Midhat Pasha that the Kaïmakamliks of Lattakia and Gebele should be detached from Tripoli and erected into a separate Mutaserifilik—a measure in my opinion likely to insure a great improvement in the administration of that part of the country, especially if the public force at the disposal of the executive officers is increased in numbers and improved in quality; but this will naturally require an increased outlay, and it is in this necessity that lies the principal difficulty which the Governor-General has to encounter in his endeavours to improve the administration throughout the vilayet, owing to the deplorable state of the finances.

For your further information, I have the honour to transmit a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Abela reporting on the effect produced in the district of Sidon by the recent measures of severity adopted by Midhat Pasha.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 106.

Extract from the "Hadikat el Akhbar" of March 6, 1879.

LES RÉFORMES.

Instructions promulguées par le Vilayet de Syrie.

(Traduction.)

LA formation d'une brigade de police et de deux brigades des gendarmes, piétons et cavaliers, ayant été décidée pour servir de modèle aux troupes de gendarmerie et

de police qui seront organisées en Syrie pour le service de la sûreté publique, les instructions suivantes sont portées à la connaissance publique.

Ces instructions contenant les prescriptions fondamentales de la loi présidant à la formation et au service civil de la police et de la gendarmerie, dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions, feront connaître le mode de recrutement et les conditions requises dans la formation de ces trois brigades.

Article 1. Les conditions suivantes sont requises dans les personnes désirant s'enrôler dans le cadre de la police :—

(1.) D'être sujets Ottomans;

(2.) D'être âgés d'au moins 25 ans sans dépasser la cinquantaine;

(3.) D'être forts de constitution, exempts de toute maladie chronique ou passagère;

(4.) D'être munis d'un attestat d'honorabilité, comme n'ayant encouru aucune peine ou condamnation et menant une vie privée honnête;

(5.) De parler une langue quelconque, tout au moins un peu du Turc pour pouvoir se faire entendre, bien entendu qu'ils doivent posséder la langue Arabe;

(6.) De savoir écrire en Turc ou en Arabe;

(7.) De posséder toutes les capacités et l'aptitude nécessaires aux investigations et à la prise d'informations sur quelque affaire que ce soit.

Tout sujet Ottoman, Musulman ou non-Musulman, réunissant les conditions requises plus haut mentionnées, sera admis, tout d'abord, comme simple agent de police.

Art. 2. Les agents de police sont tenus de continuer leur service durant six ans consécutifs. Ils ne peuvent être libérés ou licenciés que passé leur terme de service, ou à moins d'une démission justifiée par une raison légitime.

Art. 3. Le simple agent de police recevra une paie de 400 piastres, en métallique, par mois; le caporal aura une addition de 25 piastres, le Bolouk-Emini (trésorier) de 35 piastres, et le sergent de 50 piastres, par mois. En outre, tous les agents de police, y compris les officiers jusqu'au grade de Kol-Agassi, recevront chacun, par an, un habit complet et un fez. Il leur sera fourni, tous les trois ans une fois, un manteau et un paletôt imperméable, tous les dix ans la plaque à chacun et, une fois pour toutes, une lanterne de police, une montre, un timbre, portant l'inscription "Police," à attacher sur la poitrine, un revolver à six coups avec étui, des menottes en cuivre pour mettre aux pouces des criminels, et un sifflet avec chaîne en cuivre.

Art. 4. Les conditions suivantes sont requises aussi dans les personnes qui désirent servir dans les cadres de la gendarmerie: (1) d'être sujets Ottomans; (2) d'être âgés d'au moins 20 ans sans dépasser la quarantaine; (3) d'être forts de constitution exempts de toute espèce de maladies; (4) d'être munis d'attestats d'honorabilité comme n'ayant subi aucune peine ou condamnation, jouissant d'une vie honnête et reputés de bonnes mœurs. Les personnes de cette catégorie sachant lire et écrire, et celles qui ont servi dans l'armée régulière et quitté le service honorablement, pourront aspirer à un avancement.

Art. 5. Les personnes servant dans la gendarmerie ne sauraient quitter leur service avant quatre ans, à moins d'une raison légitime prévue par la loi. Chaque gendarme piéton recevra une paie de 160 piastres, et chaque gendarme cavalier 200 piastres, en métallique, par mois. Les caporaux auront une addition de 15 piastres, les Emini-Bolouk de 20 piastres, et les sergents de 30 piastres, par mois, en sus de la paie attachée à la classe de gendarmerie dans laquelle ils servent.

Art. 6. Les gendarmes piétons et cavaliers auront chacun une ration quotidienne d'un pain, soit 300 drames, en sus de la paie mensuelle. Il sera fourni aux cavaliers une ration, par cheval, de trois oques d'orge et de quatre oques de paille. Les habits et armes leurs sont fournis par le Gouvernement.

Tous les sujets Ottomans, Musulmans ou non-Musulmans, réunissant les conditions requises, sont admis dans la gendarmerie.

Art. 7. Les personnes désirant entrer au service militaire civil, soit dans la police ou dans la gendarmerie, et qui jouiraient des conditions ci-dessus mentionnées, sont invitées à se présenter par devant la Commission instituée à Damas, sous la présidence de l'Alay Bey, pour s'y faire inscrire, après constatation de leurs mérites et aptitudes.

Inclosure 3 in No. 106.

Vice-Consul Abela to Consul-General Eldridge.

Saida, le 12 Mars, 1879.

M. le Consul-Général,

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que le célèbre brigand Metouali, nommé Kharrab, lequel avait commis plusieurs crimes, surtout dans le district Chékiff, a été à la fin condamné à être pendu au village Nafatié, chef-lieu du dit district; et le 24 du mois passé l'exécution du dit criminel a été effectuée sous la surveillance de Sadik Bey, Caïmacam de cette ville, et en présence d'un très grand nombre d'habitants du district, étant ce jour là un jour de foire.

Il m'a été rapporté que deux autres brigands Metouali, du district Marj-youn, avaient aussi été exécutés le mois passé à Damas, et que des autres criminels, particulièrement les brigands qui infectaient le district Shoumar, ne tarderont pas à subir le même sort.

Cette énergique démarche de l'autorité, joint à son actuelle vigilance, n'ont pas manqué de produire une grande impression sur le public, et c'est sans doute pour cela qu'on n'entend plus, pour le moment, des plaintes comme par le passé.

Daignez, &c.

(Signé) HABIB ABELA.

No. 107.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 3.)

(No. 28. Political.)

Beyrout, March 20, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 16 of the 15th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch No. 28 and its inclosures, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary at Constantinople reporting on the probable effect of the return of his Excellency Rustem Pasha to Mount Lebanon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 107.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Malet.

Beyrout, March 20, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 15th ultimo, reporting on the general feeling of regret expressed by the Lebanese on the departure of Rustem Pasha, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy and translation of a telegram which I am informed was forwarded about a week ago to the Sublime Porte.

It asserts that the probable return of his Excellency to the Lebanon is likely to produce ruinous consequences to the country, and purports to be signed by six individuals, three Christians and three Druses, acting under legal authority as representatives of the Lebanese.

The names affixed to this telegram are those of highly respectable and influential families or tribes of the mountain, most of the Chiefs of which are personally known to me, but I cannot discover amongst these six names any of the principal persons of these tribes, and many persons who are equally or better acquainted than myself with the upper classes of the Lebanon fail to recognize who they are. These tribes are very numerous, and some of the members of them exercise the humble callings of small shopkeepers, pedlars, &c., and it is possible that some obscure individuals connected with these tribes may have been induced to affix their signatures to the telegram in question.

It is certain that the sentiments expressed in it are not those of the great majority of the inhabitants of the Lebanon, where I am convinced that the effect of the return of Rustem Pasha, so far from being ruinous or likely to produce troubles, would be exactly the reverse, and I believe my opinion is shared by all who take an interest in,

and desire the tranquillity and prosperity of, the mountain, where the reappearance of his Excellency will have a reassuring effect, and will be hailed with great satisfaction by a vast majority of the inhabitants; in fact, by all except the fanatical party of the Maronites.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 107.

Telegram signed by some of the Chief Families of the Lebanon.

(Traduction.)

AU moment où nous nous préparions à présenter nos remercîments à la Sublime Porte et aux Grandes Puissances pour la destitution de Rustem Pacha, nous avons appris qu'il annonce son retour à ses fonctionnaires. Cela jettera le pays au désespoir. Nous sollicitons que les conséquences ruineuses qui en résulteront soient prises en considération.

Protestations de toutes les communautés arriveront par la première occasion.

Par procuration légale,

(Signé) SAID SHEHAB.
MUHHEM SHEHAB.
EMIN ABDUL SAMAD.
IBRAHIM NASR EDDIN.
ASSAF ZALHOUK.
KULEIB EL KHOURI.

Note.—Une copie a été aussi présentée par les susdites signataires au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de France, aussi qu'aux Ambassades des six Grandes Puissances à Constantinople.

No. 108.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 3.)

(No. 29.)

(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburgh, April 2, 1879.

THIS Government now asserts that Labanoff has telegraphed to them that the Porte itself does not wish to appoint Rustem Pasha, but Aleko. It would be advisable I should be put in a position to contradict all [?] this story should it be untrue.

No. 109.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 3.)

(No. 29.)

(Telegraphic.)

Buceno, April 2, 1879.

FOLLOWING figures received from Macdonell, dated this morning:—

"Malet states, in a telegram difficult to decypher, that Sultan, on hearing of Her Majesty's approach to his dominions, has addressed a letter to the Queen, which will be conveyed to Her Majesty by Hobart and Rustem Pashas. Sultan desired to send his son to visit Her Majesty at the same time, but as the Prince could not go without a numerous suite, His Majesty has, at Malet's suggestion, abandoned the intention."

I have communicated the above to the Queen, who has commanded me to request Mr. Malet, while expressing Her Majesty's thanks, to say that, as she is paying a private [visit] to the Italian lakes, Her Majesty hopes the Sultan will not send a special Mission to her. I am to add that a letter sent through Mr. Malet under cover to me would be safely delivered.

Telegram sent to Mr. Malet accordingly.

No. 110.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 291.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 3, 1879.*

I SAW Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning before the Council, and communicated your Lordship's message about not pressing the mixed occupation. It was in time.

No. 111.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 3.)

(No. 292. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 3, 1879.*

GENERAL BAKER has suggested to me that in the event of mixed occupation the occupying nationalities should occupy different districts in turn. The English are likely to spend most cash, and therefore become popular. This result should not be confined to one district. He suggests that three months respectively in south, west, north, and east districts, leaving off so that we should be near to sea.

No. 112.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 3, 1879, 4·45 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 29 of yesterday, I understand Porte thinks well of Aleko, though they have not actually proposed him. I authorized you to propose him to the Russian Government by my telegram No. 8, which left yesterday at 4 P.M.

No. 113.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 3, 1879, 5 P.M.*

I AGREE that your solution about gendarmerie is the wisest; I only doubt whether you have power under Treaty to make it. As to land, a clause would suffice excepting from grant to province all State land which may be wanted for any of the purposes specified under Article XV of the Treaty.

My telegrams to you will in future be numbered.

No. 114.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 3, 1879, 11·15 P.M.*

YOURS 291. When I sent mine, No. 2, I had not received yours, 286 and 287, or I would not have asked you to make so rapid a turn. Inform Carathéodory we do not withdraw our recommendation of mixed occupation, but in view of his and the Grand Vizier's strong objection, we are trying to find means of obviating, or at least postponing, the necessity.

This communication he must look on as secret.

No. 115.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 485. Most Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 3, 1879.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 293 of this day's date, stating that you had seen the Minister for Foreign Affairs before the Council of Ministers, summoned for to-day, had met, and had informed him that you were no longer instructed to press for the immediate acceptance of the plan of mixed occupation.

I am obliged to you for your prompt action upon my telegraphic instruction of the 2nd instant. At the time when I sent it I had not yet received your telegrams Nos. 286 and 287 of that day, reporting the arguments you had used to urge that the Porte should at once give its consent. Had I been aware of them I should have hesitated to ask you at once to withdraw your advice.

I have now requested you to inform the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs that Her Majesty's Government do not abandon their recommendation of mixed occupation, but that, in consideration of the strong objections felt by his Excellency and the Grand Vizier, they are endeavouring to find a means for obviating the necessity for this measure, or at least postponing it.

You will request his Excellency to consider this communication as strictly confidential.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 116.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 161.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April 3, 1879.*

I HAVE informed your Excellency to-day in my telegram No. 9 that I understand that Aleko Pasha, whom I authorized you in my preceding telegram of yesterday's date to propose to the Russian Government for the appointment of Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia, is favourably thought of by the Porte, who have not, however, actually suggested that he should be selected for the post.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 117.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 4.)

(No. 293.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 3, 1879.*

GRAND VIZIER says that Musurus Pasha has informed him of financial [?] negotiations with regard to four Ottoman loans, by which the holders of these loans would surrender a part of the securities assigned to them, and so facilitate a new loan to the Porte on the guarantee of the remainder. His Highness wishes to know if this project meets with the approval of Her Majesty's Government. If it does, and Her Majesty's Government will lend their countenance, he is ready to accept it at once. His Highness understands that Ottoman Bank is concerned in this scheme.

No. 118.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 4.)

(No. 294.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 3, 1879.*

GRAND VIZIER wishes to know if Her Majesty's Government will consent to nomination of Aleko Pasha as Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia. His Highness says that Russian Ambassador has informed him that it would be agreeable to his

Government, who would counsel Bulgarians to accept it, and that they think it would materially tend to facilitate reinstallation of Sultan's authority. Grand Vizier is of the same opinion, and he hopes Her Majesty's Government will accede to it.

No. 119.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 4.*)

(No. 295. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 3, 1879.*

GRAND VIZIER said to me that the Sultan continued to exile persons with regard to whom he was suspicious. That two old and infirm persons were now ordered to a distant province, that his Highness had refused to execute order, and that if his Ministry insisted he would resign. That Osman Pasha had said that it was a sacred right of the Sultan under the Constitution, but his Highness held that the Constitution was in abeyance, and that the Sultan could not retain one clause which gave this power while he rejected the others. His Highness would not lend his countenance to cruel violations of liberty as were now taking place. He hoped to be able to obtain acceptance of his view; he mentioned matter to me as it might lead to his resignation [? at] any moment, and he added that if he did resign he would not do so quietly, but that he would make the Empire ring to the scandal of his fall from power on such grounds.

No. 120.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 4.*)

(No. 131.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, April 3, 1879.*

I HAVE received your telegram of yesterday. I, yesterday, with Austrian Commissioner, had a long interview with Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of our Statute. His Excellency laid stress on some other points, but not on those referred to by your Lordship. Do you wish me to take these up myself, or merely to mention them to the Turks? As the Statute is to be embodied in a Firman, is it not competent, in the case of nomination of subaltern officers of gendarmerie, for the Sultan to delegate a portion of his powers to Governor-General? This may meet your doubt on the subject.

No. 121.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 4.*)

(No. 24.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, April 3, 1879.*

RESOLUTION deciding amending Article 7 of Constitution read a third and last time in both Chambers to-day. Discussion probably next two days.

No. 122.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 1. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 4, 1879, 7·15 A.M.*

FIRST Lord of the Admiralty tells me he has information on which he can rely that a filibustering expedition for Albania is about to leave Italy. It is worth while to call attention of Italian Government in case there may be time to stop it.

No. 123.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 4.*)

(No. 31.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, April 1, 1879, 1·5 P.M.*

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Mr. Malet to-day:—

"In consequence of the communication which I made to-day to the Sultan in consequence of your Lordship's telegram, His Imperial Majesty has abandoned his intention to send special mission to the Queen; the letter which His Majesty says was merely one of compliment, deriving its significance from the manner in which His Majesty proposed to transmit it, need not therefore be sent.

"Private.—His Majesty gave up his intention with much regret, but without apparently being hurt."

(Communicated to the Queen.)

No. 124.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 4, 1879, 3·50 P.M.*

YOURS 293.

If arrangement has been made with holders of securities which are to be pledged to new loan, we are willing to lend countenance to the extent of appointing Commissaries to receive customs.

No. 125.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 4, 5·30 P.M.*)

(No. 22. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, April 4, 1879.*

THE German, Austrian, and Russian Governments have finally agreed to promote the election of Prince Battenburg in preference to any other candidate for Bulgaria.

No. 126.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 4, 1879, 5·10 P.M.*

YOURS 131.

We will not take exception if no one else does; but I doubt the legality of your proceeding.

No. 127.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 4, 1879, 6·15 P.M.*

YOURS 294.

I sent the following to Lord Dufferin on the 2nd, after receiving your telegram No. 284, and before receiving your telegrams Nos. 286 and 287:—

[See No. 94.]

No. 128.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 4, 1879, 7·30 P.M.*

PROCEEDINGS at Constantinople are not easily intelligible. Monday Malet informed me Sultan had confirmed decision of his Council to accept mixed occupation. Wednesday morning I heard from him that Minister for Foreign Affairs had shown him a Circular in effect declining mixed occupation, and that this change of decision was the work of French Ambassador. That same day, after Cabinet, I sent to your Excellency my telegram with alternative solution, and instructed Malet to cease urging Porte for the moment. In the evening Musurus brought me a long telegram couched in language of a Circular, which, after setting forth dangers of mixed occupation, proposed to satisfy populations by keeping Vali out of province, and substituting Lieutenant-Governor, and and adding that this proposition "would relieve the friendly Cabinets of the sacrifices and embarrassments which perhaps the course of events itself might spare them." Musurus understood this document as a distinct refusal. Apparently it was not a Circular.

That is the point at which we stand now. I think you had better make my alternative proposal of Wednesday, as the acceptance of mixed occupation pure and simple at Constantinople will, at all events, be very difficult to obtain. If you find Russians quite obdurate to alternative proposition, you might offer that the Commission might have power to summon the mixed contingents if they found the pressure of a military force in the interior of the province absolutely necessary.

No. 129.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 163.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April 4, 1879.*

I INFORMED you this day by telegraph of the position of the negotiations for the mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia.

It is not easy to understand the action of the Porte in regard to this question. On Monday last I was informed by Her Majesty's Minister at Constantinople that the Sultan had confirmed the decision of the Council of Ministers to accept the proposal. On Wednesday morning, however, I learned from Mr. Malet that the Minister for Foreign Affairs had shown him a Circular which in effect rejected it, and it was added that this change of decision was attributable to the representations of the French Ambassador.

In consequence, after consulting the Cabinet, I sent to your Excellency the same day my telegram No. 8 containing an alternative proposal, and I at the same time instructed Mr. Malet to cease for the moment from urging the Porte to accept the plan of mixed occupation.

In the evening of that day (Wednesday, the 2nd instant) Musurus Pasha communicated to me a long telegram from his Government, which, from its terms, appeared to be a Circular, and which, after setting forth the dangers of a mixed occupation, proposed to satisfy the population by keeping the Vali for the present out of the province, sending in his place a Lieutenant-Governor. The telegram added that this proposal "dispense pour le moment les Cabinets amis, à la bonne volonté desquels la Sublime Porte rend hommage, des sacrifices et des embarras que peut-être la marche des événements mêmes pourrait leur épargner." Musurus Pasha himself understood this document to amount to a distinct refusal of mixed occupation.

Under these circumstances, it would, in my opinion, be desirable that you should make to the Russian Government the alternative proposal contained in my telegram of Wednesday above referred to, as it will be very difficult in any case to obtain the acceptance at Constantinople of the plan for mixed occupation, without conditions or modifications.

If you should find the Russian Government resolutely opposed to the alternative I have proposed, you might offer an arrangement by which it should be left to the European Commission to summon the mixed contingents, in case they found the presence of a military force in the interior of the province to be a matter of real necessity.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 130.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 489.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 4, 1879.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 294 of yesterday's date, conveying the request of the Grand Vizier that Her Majesty's Government would accede to the nomination of Aleko Pasha as Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia.

In reply I have repeated to you a telegraphic despatch which I had addressed on the 2nd instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, after receiving your report of the refusal of the Porte to accept the proposal for mixed occupation, and before your subsequent telegrams, stating the steps taken by you to procure a reversal of that decision, had reached me.

The substance of my message to Lord Dufferin is given in the despatch, of which a copy is herewith inclosed, and it contains a proposal that Aleko Pasha shall be appointed Governor-General, instead of Rustem Pasha.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 131.

Mr. Löwy to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 5.)

Secretary's Office, 160, Portsdown Road, W., London, April 4, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE been instructed by Baron Henry de Worms, President of the Anglo-Jewish Association, to transmit to your Lordship two documents (marked 1 and 2), relating to the Jews in Roumelia.

Inclosure 1 contains an account of the treatment which the Jewish question of emancipation is receiving at the hands of the Government and the Chambers of Roumania.

Inclosure two contains the translation of a letter describing the proceedings of a military man, who told his followers on several occasions, that any attack upon the Jews might safely be regarded as a meritorious act, and who, himself, did not shrink from committing dastardly outrages. It has been ascertained on the part of this Association that the writers of the letters are persons whose words may be credited.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. LÖWY, *Secretary.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 131.

Memorandum.

LA Convention de Paris de 1858 avait accordé tous les droits civils aux Israélites Roumains, l'Article XLIV du Traité de Berlin leur garantit la jouissance de tout droit politique et en fait une condition de la reconnaissance de la Roumanie par les Gouvernements Européens. Le Gouvernement vient de proposer aux Chambres et celles-ci ont voté une mesure qui a l'air de donner satisfaction au vœu des Puissances. Elles ont déclaré que l'Article 7 de la Constitution, qui s'oppose à la naturalisation des Israélites étrangers, serait soumis à la révision d'une Constituante. Par ce vote, il semble que la question Israélite en Roumanie soit réglée, mais en réalité rien n'a été fait ni pour les Israélites indigènes, que l'Article XLIV du Traité de Berlin avait principalement en vue, ni pour les Israélites étrangers qui ne voudraient pas changer de nationalité. Les uns et les autres restent soumis à toutes les lois d'exception qui les atteignaient antérieurement, défense de demeurer dans les campagnes et les villes; défense de prendre part aux adjudications publiques, à la fabrication et à la vente du tabac et d'autres objets de consommation; exclusion des fonctions publiques, du barreau, de la magistrature, du professorat, des carrières libérales, des grades dans l'armée. Ces lois pouvaient être modifiées sans l'intervention d'une Constituante, et le Gouvernement aurait eu le temps depuis huit mois d'en demander l'abrogation aux Chambres. Il n'a pas une seule fois annoncé qu'il eût l'intention de proposer cette

mesure. Tous ses actes et toutes ses paroles montrent qu'il veut au contraire maintenir cette législation. C'est ce que prouvent les missions politiques qu'il a envoyées récemment en Europe, les articles de journaux officieux, la tolérance accordée à des sociétés dites de résistance et qui pourraient mettre en péril la vie des Israélites. Une proposition législative est même déjà faite pour rendre la naturalisation à peu près inaccessible à ceux qui voudraient profiter de la suppression de l'Article 7. Des hommes autorisés se sont élevés, dans les Chambres et dans la presse, contre cette politique. Le Gouvernement leur répond qu'ils sont les ennemis de leur pays. C'est le reproche que M. Bratiano, Président du Conseil, adressait à M. Majoresen dans la séance de la Chambre des Députés du 30 Septembre, 1878, et dans celle du 7 Février, 1879. Enfin, dans la séance de la Chambre des Députés du 20 Février, M. Bratiano, après avoir insulté tous les Israélites Roumains, a déclaré nettement qu'on ne peut pas leur donner d'un coup l'indigénat ou la naturalisation. C'est assez dire que la mesure votée par les Chambres au sujet de l'Article 7 de la Constitution est absolument insuffisante. Elle ne signifie rien pour les Israélites Roumains, presque rien pour les Israélites étrangers; elle laisse subsister pour ceux-ci toutes les difficultés que rencontrait la conclusion des Traités de Commerce. Tant que les lois d'exception contre les Israélites n'auront pas été abolies la Roumanie n'aura rien fait de sérieux pour satisfaire au Traité de Berlin et remplir les conditions mises par les Gouvernements à la reconnaissance de cette Principauté.

Secretary's Office, 160 *Portsdown Road, W., London,*
April 4, 1879.

Inclosure 2 in No. 131.

Letter addressed to Baron Henry de Worms.

(Translation from the Hebrew.)

Roman, Moldavia, February 1879.

Sir,

WE, the Undersigned, members of the congregation of Roman, have read with great interest your refutation of the defamatory assertions published by M. Ghica, and we here express to you our gratitude and profound esteem.

The intolerance of the Roumanians is of feverish intensity. Any attempts made to propitiate our adversaries must fail in effect. The intolerance of which we have to complain exists in the higher circles of Roumanians, and is not to be reached by any of those measures which honest and straightforward men are in the habit of employing.

We beg leave to call your attention to the following instance of persecution:—

In the district of Roman there is a village called Dimunesti. From this village there came to us on the 9th instant three men, who brought us a communication, signed by the local Rabbi, and containing the following statement:—

"A Captain of Militia, named Nicolai Parcolof, appointed his men to assemble on a certain day, as he wished to give them new instructions, together with a special communication he had to make to them. Two hundred men attended. He then said to them: 'The Jews in this country are as leeches; they drink the blood of our Roumanian brethren. They sell intoxicating liquors and poison the drink. They plunder the villages of their hard earnings and strip them naked. The dealers in their shops rob their customers.' Thus he went on, with the view of exciting his hearers with hostility against the Jews. He further observed: 'If the Jews should be emancipated, they will drive us out of the country. The heritage left by our fathers will be consumed by strangers. This peril must be prevented by us. We must kill those wretched Jews, until not one of them be left. Let thus the cry for emancipation ring forth. Be not afraid to accomplish your object. You will find many to join you in this crusade. Permit no delay to intervene. Time presses. You will not be held responsible by the Government for your actions in self-defence; on the contrary, you will be honoured; you will be decorated for your patriotic deeds.

"After finishing this harangue he went to another named Beisheet. Here he attacked a Jew named Berl Mashkis, and some other Jews. Everywhere he made it his business in addressing the militia to disseminate ill-feeling against the Jews in Roumania.

"On the 19th instant he again passed through Dimunesti, near which there lived a Jew named Moses ben Abraham. The Captain went to this man in the company of

three militia men. He asked Moses to what religion he belonged, and on being informed that he was a Jew the Captain drew his sword and wounded the Jew, by inflicting several gashes upon him. The life of the poor man was despaired of. He had a strong constitution, and fearlessly resisted his ferocious assailant, until he was finally overpowered. The Captain took from him 235 fr., and also injured the Jew's mother, who had come to her son's rescue."

The Jews of Roman brought this matter before the Prefect of the district, and also before the Commander of the Militia, who sought to quiet their apprehensions. These two functionaries repeatedly summoned the Captain to appear before them, but he would give no account of himself. The Jews of Roman then appealed to the Ministry, requesting that a Commission should be appointed to report on this outrage. The Ministers referred the case to the Colonel stationed in Roman. Meanwhile the injured man was conveyed from his village to the hospital in Roman, where he was attended by his aged mother.

It is feared that the Commission for investigating the case will allow the ruffian to escape scot free, and that no justice will be done to the injured man. The outrage has created the utmost consternation amongst the Jews in this district.

Were it not the practice of officials to stir up the multitude of the people against us we might live in undisturbed security. The disquietude in which we live is not a consequence of any offences that might be falsely imputed to us; but is provoked by the ill-will prevailing against us in the higher quarters.

We appeal to you, who for years have pleaded on our behalf, to devise a plan for relieving us from our imminent dangers.

We are, &c.

No. 132.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 5.)

(No. 31.)
(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburgh, April 4, 1879.

I HAVE communicated to Prince Gortchacow the proposals I was instructed to submit in your telegram of the 2nd instant.

I have also discussed the subject with M. de Giers and Count Schouvaloff. M. de Giers seemed to take a very favourable view of the suggestions, though demurring as before to locating of Turks at Ichtiman. There is no doubt that, as a whole, he prefers this new plan to the old one, and he is sincerely anxious that it should succeed. M. de Giers would not tell me whether this Government would desire to go on with the mixed occupation if France and Italy declined to participate. Count Schouvaloff entirely differs from M. de Giers, and thinks that nothing but force will maintain tranquillity of the province, and that Turkish troops can only be introduced after present excitement has subsided, and under the protection of a foreign occupying force. He doubts whether the Delimitation Commission could undertake their labours without such protection. He said that the population had got beyond the control of the Russian authorities, and that this Government is aware of its mistake in not having peremptorily stopped the intrigues of its Panslavist Agents. He still thinks that, notwithstanding the disadvantages to Russia, a mixed occupation even without Italy and France would be best. He added that Todleben would arrive to-night, and that a good deal would depend on his account of the condition of the province. He also said that the Emperor deeply appreciated the friendly spirit you had shown, and your assistance in the furtherance of an understanding.

No. 133.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 5.)

(No. 132.)
(Telegraphic.)

Pera, April 4, 1879.

GERMAN Commissioner informs me that General Stolipine told him that the conditions he had formerly considered likely to satisfy the Bulgarians would no longer be sufficient. They would not be contented with less than annexation. He added, "I tell you, 'presque officiellement,' that not even mixed occupation will prevent an

insurrection on our departure." He said this in the presence of the Exarch, and, as the German Commissioner thought, as a hint and instruction to him.

General Stolipine is gone to Tirnova to see Dondoukoff, and Skobeleff has arrived at Philippopolis from Slivno. This means mischief.

What I fear, and this is also Austrian Commissioner's opinion, is that, unless there is a Governor and a force to take possession by the 3rd May, the Russians will leave suddenly, a provincial Government will be named, and annexation proclaimed. We must then face a *fait accompli*. If a mixed occupation is decided upon, troops should be very soon on the way. It is impossible for the Turks to muster a sufficient force. Reouf Pasha told me that he had only fifteen battalions of troops and 150 gendarmes. He is strongly in favour of a mixed occupation.

No. 134.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, April 4*, 1879.

SERVIAN Government apprehend Austria [?is] determined to demand permission to send her troops through Servian territory in case of advance on Novi-Bazar or of mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia being [?agreed] to by the Signatory Powers.

I have reason to believe Servia would refuse this permission through fear of the effect likely to be produced on the populations and the serious complications that might ensue. I venture, therefore, to suggest that Austrian Government should be dissuaded from taking such a step, if contemplated, or that admission to it should be enforced by the collective action of the great Powers.

(Above communicated to Vienna.)

No. 135.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 5, 2 P.M.)

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buccari, April 5*, 1879, 9·40 A.M.

FOLLOWING figures have been received from Mr. Macdonell, dated yesterday:—

"Italian Government is aware of supposed expedition to which the First Lord of the Admiralty refers. A sort of filibustering expedition destined to New Guinea is in course of formation, and Garibaldi is expected in Rome ostensibly in connection with it; but the individuals concerned have no means whatever to carry [?it] out. They are watched by the authorities, and the Government is confident of its failure, but are seriously embarrassed and annoyed by Garibaldi's [?complicity].

"A feeling of uneasiness prevails in Rome, and military precautions will be taken during his stay.

"Secretary-General informs me that, in his reply to the Russian Ambassador, Italy has consented to mixed occupation on condition the Seven Great Powers agreed to co-operate. His reasons are, first, to secure co-operation of Turkey; secondly, to guard their interests by lending their support; thirdly, to enable them to withdraw from engagements if prejudicial to their interests.

"He fully confirmed my previous telegram about Greek frontier, and spoke strongly on the subject.

"Conversation sufficiently important, and meant to be repeated. Shall I send report by private hand?"

I have told him to send written report.

No. 136.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 5.)

(No. 296.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 5*, 1879.

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Mr. Blunt, dated to-day:—

"Commander-in-chief received telegram day before yesterday from War Office that a reinforcement of eight battalions of infantry will proceed shortly to Thessaly from Constantinople."

No. 137.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 490A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 5*, 1879.

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me this afternoon to speak on the question of the mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia. He very earnestly dissuaded Her Majesty's Government from pressing this measure, and pointed out the dangers which he conceived would arise from it, and he dwelt especially upon the inexpediency of England being represented by any but a very considerable force.

I informed Musurus Pasha in reply that I had made propositions to the Russian Government, which, if accepted, would have the effect at all events of postponing the necessity of any such arrangement for the present; but I reminded his Excellency that the matter really depended on the attitude of the Turkish Government, and on their ability to furnish the troops required for the occupation of the positions on the frontier.

I expressed my regret that so large a portion of the Turkish army should be diverted to what appeared to me the profitless occupation of watching the Austrians in the neighbourhood of Novi-Bazar, and I renewed the expression of opinion to which I had before given utterance, that there was no danger to be apprehended by Turkey at the present time from Austria.

His Excellency stated that when he was in Constantinople he had found the Sultan imbued with a profound distrust of Austria. He had already on a previous occasion dwelt upon this point. He believed, he said, that from the first Austria had been guided by the sole desire to possess herself of Bosnia; that during the war she had shown a benevolent neutrality towards Russia, and that she was now all the more dangerous that other Powers did not distrust her, and that while everybody was anxious that Russia should evacuate Bulgaria no one took any thought to make Austria evacuate Bosnia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 138.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 6.)

(No. 297.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 5*, 1879.

I HAVE made a strong representation to the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs regarding Consul Blunt's telegram forwarded to your Lordship to-day. I said that at a moment when every soldier is necessary for eventualities in Eastern Roumelia it is incomprehensible that eight battalions should be sent to Thessaly, where they are not wanted at all.

No. 139.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 6.)

(No. 298.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 5*, 1879.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs thanks your Lordship for the communication contained in your telegram No. 3. Both his Excellency and the Grand Vizier, though

opposed to mixed occupation in theory, now see that the Porte will not be able to cope alone with the difficulties that have been prepared for them. His Highness said to me to-day that in order to have a sufficient force on the frontier they would be obliged to leave the lines of Tchataldja improperly garrisoned, and so expose the capital to danger. His Excellency said that when he opposed the suggestion he had no idea that their military strength was so feeble, and he was sincerely grateful to find that Her Majesty's Government did not withdraw recommendation for mixed occupation.

I have been pointing out this weakness for the last month, but it is only in consequence of insisting for a categorical answer about their force in compliance with your Lordship's telegram No. 2 that they seem to have awakened to their real position.

No. 140.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 6.)

(No. 301.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 5, 1879.*

THE military authorities with whom I have spoken all foresee great difficulties of detail in a mixed occupation; such as the selection of a Commander-in-chief, the relative disposition of the troops, the chance of collision with one nationality instigated by one of the others, the inequality of the treatment of the inhabitants, &c.

Might not Italy be induced to undertake occupation alone if her expenses were paid by the rest? We must not conceal from ourselves that the English, being considered the supporters of Turkey, are looked on with very unfriendly eyes by the Bulgarians.

No. 141.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 6.)

(No. 133.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 6, 1879, 1·30 A.M.*

MR. MALET has shown me his telegram. I see complications possible from mixed occupation. If Italy as the most neutral could send 10,000 men, both Russian and Turkish, to say nothing of English and Austrian, would be [? exclude]d. This would be an advantage. England and France might furnish transport. Expenses should be ultimately paid by Turkey out of the first revenues received from the province. Meanwhile, the Powers should guarantee these expenses in equal parts to Italy. Military Commissioners of rank should be appointed to head-quarters invested for certain purposes with powers of remonstrance in civil matters. This would be far better than present Commission, who had better only remain, if at all, for the installation of the Governor. Their continuance as administrators would weaken Governor's authority.

I have shown this to Mr. Malet.

Commission met to-day. Assim Pasha elected President during sittings at Constantinople. Next meeting on Wednesday.

No. 142.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 6.)

(No. 134.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 6, 1879.*

GENERAL SKOBELEFF arrived here suddenly last night. I do not know with what object; but probably with regard to mixed occupation, which seems very distasteful to Russian military party; of this he is one of the most violent. His mother, now at Philippopolis, is an active and bitter Panslavist.

No. 143.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 6.)

(No. 23. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, April 6, 1879.*

COUNT ANDRASSY made another attempt yesterday to persuade the German Government to take part in the mixed occupation of East Roumelia, but in vain. Prince Bismarck says the Emperor is personally so unwilling to send any of his soldiers so far from Germany, that it would be useless to ask His Majesty to change his mind; besides which the German Parliament would not sanction the measure.

No. 144.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 7. Most Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 6, 1879, 8 A.M.*

MY instructions not to press military occupation further was due to several reasons, among them, that the attitude of Italy had become distinctly averse; the action of Fournier gave reason to fear intrigues from dominant party in France; conduct of Austria ambiguous; all circumstances leading to the belief that the occupation would be difficult; that it might become necessary to send a large force to protect ourselves from insult and from invidious comparisons, and this, with our present engagements, it is not now convenient to do.

This is only for your information and Wolff's.

No. 145.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 6, 1879, 3·30 A.M.*

THE Cabinet desires that you will convey this message to the Sultan:—

According to our information, a revolution will certainly be attempted in Eastern Roumelia on the retirement of the Russians. If the province is left to itself, it will certainly be annexed to Bulgaria. The Sultan has rejected mixed occupation; and from that cause, and in consequence of other difficulties, mixed contingents could hardly now be ready in time. It is therefore absolutely necessary that Ottoman troops should be ready to occupy Bourgas in sufficient force, and some place near Tchtiman, and should also be massed at Mustapha Pasha, so as to push on to the Balkans if required. We understand that large forces have been accumulated in Western Macedonia to watch Austria. Danger from that Empire is imaginary; the real danger is in Eastern Roumelia. If Turkey makes no effort to retain the province, England cannot be responsible for the fatal consequences that will follow.

Dwell, as you think judicious, on the incompetence and indolence of Osman Pasha.

Let the Sultan know—not as a message, but as information from yourself—that I am to take the opinion of the Cabinet on the proposals of the Ottoman Bank on Tuesday.

No. 146.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 493.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 6, 1879.*

IT is the wish of the Cabinet that you should convey the following message to the Sultan:—

According to the information which has reached Her Majesty's Government, it appears certain that a revolution will be attempted in Eastern Roumelia when the Russian troops are withdrawn. The annexation of the province to Bulgaria is inevitable if it is left without any military force. The Sultan has rejected the pro-

posal for a mixed occupation by foreign contingents; and this refusal, combined with other difficulties, would make it next to impossible that they should now be ready in time. It is therefore absolutely necessary that the Ottoman troops should be prepared to occupy Bourgas in sufficient force, as well as some other position near to Ichtiman, and that they should also be massed at Mustapha Pasha, so as to be able to push forward to the Balkans if necessary.

It is reported that several battalions of Turkish soldiers have been concentrated in Western Macedonia, for the purpose of watching the movements of Austria, but any danger from that quarter at present is imaginary, whereas the real danger to be apprehended is in Eastern Roumelia; but if Turkey makes no effort by the adoption of energetic measures to retain the province England cannot be responsible for the fatal consequences that will follow.

I should wish you to represent, as far as you may think it judicious to do so, the incompetence and indolence of Osman Pasha.

You may also inform the Sultan privately that you have reason to believe that the opinion of the Cabinet will be taken early next week upon the proposals for a Turkish loan on the part of the Ottoman Bank.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 147.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 43.)
My Lord, *Tehran, February 25, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of a communication which I have received from the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs sending me copy of a letter which he has addressed to the Turkish Ambassador here respecting the retrocession of Kotoor to Persia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RONALD F. THOMSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 147.

The Sepeh Salar to Mr. R. Thomson.

(Translation.) *February 24, 1879.*

THE Ottoman Government not having given up to the Persian authorities the whole of the Kotoor district, which was decided to be Persian territory at the Berlin Congress, through the intervention of the Representatives of the two mediating Powers (England and Russia), and the (continued) presence of Turkish troops in that territory, although legally they have no right to be there, thus becoming a source of mischief both on the spot and amongst the tribes, I have, therefore, addressed a note on the subject to the Ottoman Embassy, and herewith have the honour to inclose a copy of the same for your information.

Inclosure 2 in No. 147.

The Sepeh Salar to the Turkish Ambassador.

(Translation.) *February 24, 1879.*

I HAVE read with satisfaction your Excellency's letter of the 6th of Shabat, 1296 (18th February, 1879), conveying the contents of the cypher telegram received from the Government of Van with regard to giving up the Kotoor district to the Commissioner appointed by the Persian Government.

In reply, after thanking your Excellency for your good offices, I beg to state most respectfully that the Persian Government considers the Kotoor district which was decided to be Persian (territory) at the Berlin Congress, and which decision was ratified by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, and which has to be made over to Persia, to consist of a valley nearly 9 farsakhs in length and running from west to east. It is bounded on the south by the Persian districts of Khaneek and Dereek and the Turkish

one of Albagh; on the east by the interior of Persia and the plain of Khoi; on the north by the lands of Aland and Akhorek, Persian territory; and to the west and south-west by the mountains on the frontier which appear to be the Haranel range, which in fact is the joint chain to the Kandeel mountain, and the names of the passes, from where the Haranel range joins, are the pass of Kashkiaul, the Meer Omar mountain, the Kabeer mountain, the Nazzareh-aveh mountain and the Chehar Tak mountain. It also consists of forty populous villages.

Whatever has been made over to the Persian Commissioner has been duly taken possession of, but it is advisable that those parts which still remain in the hands of the Turkish authorities, and which have to be defined by the meeting of a Commission and its decision as to the limits of Kotoor, should be completely evacuated by the troops of both sides, as I mentioned to your Excellency personally.

I am in hopes that you will send immediate instructions or telegraph orders to the proper quarters to remove all Turkish troops from there, should there be any.

I rest fully confident in your Excellency's sense of friendship, and that you will make no objection to take this trouble.

No. 148.

Mr. Abbott to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 3.)
My Lord, *Tabreez, February 27, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship, marked No. 33 of the 9th December last, I have the honour to report that, on the 25th ultimo, the territory of Kotoor was formally ceded to Persia.

The Turkish Delegates present on the occasion were Mustapha Rifaat Effendi and Tahir Beys, Presidents of the Provincial and Municipal Councils at Van; and the Persian Government was represented by Mohammed Suluk Khan Emini Nizam, who took possession of Kotoor and occupied it with a battalion of infantry, 120 irregular cavalry, and two pieces of artillery.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

No. 149.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 123.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, March 20, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a translation of an article from the "Maritza," announcing that the Society of the Eagle invites all Bulgarian sharpshooters to a gathering at Philippopolis on the third day of Easter.

Inclosed are also two translations from the same journal: the one regretting the events that recently took place at Yamboli, on the occasion of M. Schmidt's first visit; the second, a proclamation by General Hübsch, cautioning the public against violent demonstrations against the Treaty of Berlin and the European Commission.

I cannot help thinking that the Russian authorities are becoming alarmed at the result of their own proceedings, as they find that the revolutionary spirit they have invoked has got beyond their control.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 149.

Extract from the "Maritza" of March $\frac{6}{18}$, 1879.

ORDRE AUX HABITANTS DE LA ROUMÉLIE-ORIENTALE POUR SOUMISSION.—Ces derniers temps dans plusieurs endroits de la Roumélie Orientale se produisirent de différentes licences et démonstrations contre les règlements actuels qui s'attachent à l'accomplissement du Congrès de Berlin, et au séjour dans cette contrée

de la Commission Européenne. Je crois de mon devoir d'avertir encore une fois la population de la province qui m'est confiée que tous les arrangements dans cette contrée se font avec la connaissance et l'assentiment de l'Administration Russe, qui se guide en toute chose d'après la volonté de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies. C'est pourquoi toute démonstration, dans n'importe quel but, est une désobéissance à la volonté de l'auguste Roi-Libérateur de la Bulgarie.

Au nom du bien de cette contrée, j'invite les habitants de la province à l'ordre et à la tranquillité, et j'avertis de nouveau qu'à l'avenir tous ceux qui prendraient part dans les manifestations de tout genre contre l'ordre actuel des affaires irrévocablement seront punis avec toute la force des lois.

Le Gouverneur,
(Signé) Général-Major GUBCHE-GROSSTAL.

No. 150.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 124. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, March* 21, 1879.

YESTERDAY M. de Coutouly called upon me by appointment. He explained to me at length the attitude of M. de Ring and himself. He said that they had come here possessed with the idea of keeping up the Anglo-Austro-Franco *entente*, that such was still their wish, and that they had never departed from it. He had, at times, thought that the alliance with England in Eastern matters was one-sided, and that the latter made use of France to draw chestnuts out of the fire. Still this was the policy of his country, of which he approved, and which Baron de Ring had been instructed to pursue; while at the same time they were told that in opposing Russian policy they were to do so without creating Russian hostility.

On their arrival here the French Delegates had found that there was a strong sympathy for France in the Bulgarian mind. Many of the leading Bulgarians, including the Exarch, had been educated in France. At Slivno, for instance, all the children in the school were taught French, and many spoke it fluently. In fact, while at Philippopolis the Bulgarians who were educated abroad had studied in Germany, those of Slivno belonged entirely to the French school of education and thought. It was after studying the Bulgarians on the spot that the French Delegates had become alive to two facts, viz.: the horror of the Bulgarians to the return of Turkish rule, and their desire to look to some foreign support other than that of Russia.

In this case France was their first idea. England had been hostile to the Bulgarians; Austria and Italy had views of their own; Germany was indifferent. Republican in feeling, and French in education, the leading Bulgarians had sought out the French Delegates, and taken them into their confidence. The articles in the "Maritza" had been written by M. Zancoff and the Exarch.

Taking this view, the French Delegates had endeavoured to ascertain how far the Treaty of Berlin could be so modified in its application as to make it acceptable to the Bulgarians of the province. These latter, M. de Coutouly affirms, are anxious to accept the Treaty, and prefer the organization proposed by the Commission to that of Prince Dondoukoff for Bulgaria.

M. de Coutouly had at once seized the three principal points of the question, those on which I have repeatedly addressed your Lordship, viz.: the European Governor, the suspension of the Balkan garrisons, and a mixed occupation.

He had therefore written for M. Fournier a long Report on these points. In this Report he had argued that the European Governor should belong to one of two nationalities, the French or the Italian.

M. Fournier, pleased with the Report, and being somewhat of a humourist, declared that M. de Coutouly should be the Governor. This had, much to his annoyance, been taken up as a joke at the French Embassy and Delegation; but he did not see why more blame was to lie at his door on this account than had been awarded to M. Vernoni, of whom the same thing had been said.

I thanked M. de Coutouly for his explanation. I told him that I had never grudged him or his country any of the influence they wished to exercise here, and I thought that the substitution of any influence for that of Russia would be desirable. I however had regretted his action when I perceived that it tended, by thwarting us, to play the Russian, instead of the European, or even the exclusively French game. I could not, however, place

the candidature imputed to him quite on the same footing as M. Vernoni's. The latter had been talked of as a candidate on account of the almost absolute neutrality he had shown; whereas I had heard from Constantinople, Sofia, Tirnovo, and elsewhere of M. Coutouly's candidature in connection with an active policy initiated by France. Not only this, but while M. Vernoni's real or fancied pretensions were confined within the region of gossip, M. de Coutouly's had been actually submitted to the Turkish Government. M. de Coutouly admitted the truth of these remarks, at which he had been much annoyed. Count de Castellane, hearing the jocular conversations on the subject, had taken them literally, and had, on his own account, opened out a negotiation with Réouf Pasha. On this head M. de Coutouly's explanation became rather hazy, and I thought it unwise to cross-question him. I gathered, however, that all the misunderstanding on the subject had arisen from the officiousness of M. de Castellane and the exquisite sense of humour of M. Fournier.

M. de Coutouly moreover declared to me that no consideration whatever could induce him to accept the office of Governor-General, and gave me the reasons usually given for refusing an offer which has never been made.

He was however very friendly and cordial, and promised to work with us to expedite the Report of the Commission.

The night before he had told me that M. de Ring was about to make a declaration at the Commission, which he begged me to understand was not directed against me. He also made the same statement to M. de Kallay, with whom he had had some explanations on a personal matter on which he thought that gentleman had slighted him.

At the meeting of the Commission yesterday M. de Ring made a declaration which will appear in the Protocols. He stated that he had heard from an undoubted source that he was accused of an endeavour to upset the Treaty of Berlin, instead of working to carry it out; and he wished to inquire whether such charges had been made by any of the Commissioners, in order that by a public or private explanation he might remove any misunderstanding. As no one spoke, except to express their admiration of M. de Ring, who is personally much liked, he declared the incident closed.

It is pretty evident that a communication of some kind has reached the French Delegates from their Government, and the result is, on the whole, beneficial.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 151.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 125.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, March* 22, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the "Maritza," which contains the account given by the Russians of the recent attack on the Greek Metropolitan of Adrianople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 151.

Extract from the "Maritza" of March 6, 1879.

(Traduction.)

ACTE D'ACCUSATION.—Le 6 Février de cette année (v. s.), vers 3 heures de l'après-midi, à Andinople, une foule d'environ 2,000 personnes, composée de Bulgares et de Grecs, et de femmes Bulgares et Grecques, entrait dans la cour du konak, et s'adressant au Gouverneur Militaire, Général Major Molostvoff, le priait de faire savoir aux autorités supérieures que la population Chrétienne du Sandjak d'Andrinople tout entière refusait de se soumettre au Gouvernement Turc qu'elle abhorrait et demandait, en vue de l'évacuation imminente du sandjak par les troupes Russes, l'autorisation d'émigrer en masse, soit en Bulgarie, soit en Roumélie Orientale.

En réponse à cette prière, le Gouverneur déclara catégoriquement qu'une émigration dans de pareilles proportions était impossible, que les émigrants se verraient aux prises avec d'insurmontables difficultés, aussi bien pendant le trajet qu'ils auraient à parcourir qu'à leur arrivée dans les localités où ils devraient s'établir, et

que le Gouvernement n'avait pas à sa disposition de ressources suffisantes pour organiser l'établissement d'une pareille masse d'émigrants, soit en Bulgarie, soit en Roumélie Orientale. Malgré des affirmations si précises la foule continua à insister. Elle déclarait préférer subir les dernières privations et même la mort, mais sur le sol de la Bulgarie libre, plutôt que de retomber sous le joug du Gouvernement Turc. S'étant convaincu que ses paroles n'avaient pas d'action sur la foule, le Général Molostvoff lui ordonna de se retirer, en ajoutant que dans quatre jours le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale viendrait à Andrinople et qu'alors on ferait savoir aux personnes voulant émigrer celles qui pourraient être établies en Bulgarie. Après avoir donné cet ordre, le Général Molostvoff voyant que la foule s'était calmée et se dirigeait paisiblement vers les portes du konak, rentra dans son logement.

La foule venait à peine de sortir du konak, quand le bruit se répandit que la réponse si défavorable du Gouverneur devait être attribuée aux instances du Métropolitain Grec, Monseigneur Dionysios. Celui-ci aurait, à ce qu'on disait, persuadé les autorités Russes que la population du Sandjak d'Andrinople verrait avec plaisir le retour des Turcs. En un instant ce bruit courut dans la foule. On résolut alors d'aller immédiatement à la Métropole Grecque, d'y prendre Monseigneur Dionysios et de l'amener dans la cour du konak, afin de le forcer, une fois là, à avouer en présence du Gouverneur et des habitants, qu'il les avait livrés aux Turcs. Dans ce but une partie de la foule se détacha de la masse afin d'aller chercher l'Archevêque. Elle se composait d'environ un demi millier de personnes, parmi lesquelles plus de 200 femmes, Grecques pour la plupart, qui se trouvant aux premiers rangs, parvinrent les premières devant le Métropole. Entrant dans la cour du Palais, une dizaine de femmes y aperçut Monseigneur Dionysios. Elles l'invitèrent à les suivre au konak, afin d'expliquer aux autorités Russes que la population ne voulait pas le retour du Gouvernement Turc.

Monseigneur Dionysios leur répondit par des injures, les appelant "chiennes enragées," et leur intimant l'ordre de rentrer à la maison pour travailler et gagner l'argent nécessaire au paiement des impôts qui, prétendait-il, seraient exigés par les Turcs, pour tout le temps qui la ville avait été occupée par les troupes Russes. Une pareille déclaration excita encore plus la colère des femmes. S'avançant vers le perron sur lequel se tenait le Métropolitain, elles se mirent à le menacer en criant que s'il ne voulait pas de son plein gré les suivre au konak, on l'y traînerait de force.

Alors Monseigneur Dionysios, en riennant, dit à ces femmes, qu'elles n'aimaient les Russes que parce qu'elles faisaient avec eux la débauche pendant que les maris étaient au travail.

Alors, la foule en vociférant:—"Nous savons toutes qu'on t'amène des filles," se précipita sur le Métropolitain. La Grecque Lambrini Kristaki se jetant sur lui, le saisit d'une main à la barbe et de l'autre aux parties génitales. Les Grecques Hélène Tchelepout, Hélène Wassilaki, Catherine Bakal-Nicolova, la Bulgare Gélésa Théodorova, et quelques autres femmes, venant en aide à Lambrini Kristaki, jetèrent le Métropolitain à terre et se mirent à le frapper, à l'égratigner, et à déchirer ses vêtements.

Aux cris de Monseigneur Dionysios ses serviteurs étaient accourus; ils se mirent à battre les femmes qui ne voulaient pas lâcher le Métropolitain. Alors les Grecs et les Bulgares qui étaient restés dans la rue, sans prendre part, jusqu'alors, à cette scène déplorable, entrèrent dans la cour et après en avoir chassé les domestiques du Métropolitain, l'enlevèrent aux femmes, et sortant dans la rue le traînèrent dans la direction du konak.

A deux cents pas environ de la Métropole la foule fut rencontrée par le Général Vélitchkowski, qui passait à cheval, suivi d'un Cosaque. Apercevant sur la chaussée une masse noire de forme confuse que traînait la foule, le Général s'en approcha pour voir ce que c'était.

A ce moment une des femmes, saisissant le Métropolitain aux cheveux, lui avait relevé la tête. A cette vue le Général Vélitchkowski ordonna au Cosaque qui l'accompagnait de se rendre en toute hâte à la caserne de l'escorte et d'amener des soldats.

Quant à lui, tirant à moitié son sabre du fourreau, et criant à la foule de s'arrêter, le Général se précipita au secours de Mgr. Dionysios. Cette intervention inattendue n'arrêta la foule que pour quelques instants. Les femmes se précipitèrent sur le Métropolitain avec une nouvelle violence. Quelqu'un de la foule essayait de jeter le Général à bas de son cheval, de sorte qu'il ne put parvenir qu'à grand'peine et grâce à l'aide de quelques Grecs étrangers à la manifestation et du soldat de police

Stepliane Vassilieff, à conduire le Métropolitain dans une maison voisine où il est resté jusqu'à l'arrivée du Gouverneur Militaire.

Celui-ci opéra immédiatement quelques arrestations et intima à la foule l'ordre de se disperser, ce qu'elle fit à l'arrivée de l'escouade d'escorte mandée sur les lieux.

Un peu plus tard il fut reconnu que les personnes arrêtées au premier moment n'étaient que des curieux accourus pour voir ce qui se passait entre le peuple et le Métropolitain. Quant aux vrais coupables, ils avaient pris la fuite en apprenant l'approche de la force armée.

Tous ces désordres n'avaient guère duré qu'une vingtaine de minutes et il n'y avait aucun moyen de les prévenir. En effet, le Gouverneur voyant la foule sortir paisiblement des portes du konak, conformément à l'ordre qu'il lui en avait intimé, était rentré avec la ferme persuasion que Grecs et Bulgares allaient tranquillement regagner leurs demeures.

Une première instruction a mis au jour les faits suivants. De longue date Mgr. Dionysios était détesté par les Grecs comme par les Bulgares, pour avoir dénoncé aux autorités Turques les meneurs de l'insurrection Crétoise, qui furent, à la suite de cette dénonciation, saisis et égorgés. Pendant toute la durée de son séjour à Andrinople et jusqu'à l'entrée des troupes Russes, il avait toujours vécu dans la plus grande intimité avec les autorités Turques, ne sortant pour ainsi dire pas du konak et se promenant dans les rues avec Hadji-Mehmed, le tous-bachi, célèbre par sa haine contre les Chrétiens. Selon la disposition de la Grecque Ioana Angelos, avant l'entrée des troupes Russes et pendant que les Turcs pendaient les Chrétiens, le Métropolitain avait donné l'ordre de déterrer les cadavres de ceux qui avaient été pendus et de les jeter aux chiens. La Grecque Anastasie Barbanont a déposé que Monseigneur Dionysios avait refusé la sépulture Chrétienne à son fils, parce qu'elle n'était pas en état de payer l'argent qu'exigeait le prêtre. En outre, pendant le séjour des Russes à Andrinople, le Métropolitain, sans aucunement s'inquiéter des besoins spirituels de ses ouailles, avait fait fermer l'église de la Sainte-Trinité, et défendu aux prêtres Bulgares d'y dire la messe. A plusieurs reprises le Moukhtar (courrier) du Métropolitain avait parcouru la ville et ses environs faisant partout signer un document où il était demandé aux habitants s'ils étaient satisfaits des autorités Russes ou non? Et quoique chaque fois les habitants eussent répondu tous qu'ils étaient parfaitement satisfaits et ne pouvaient désirer un meilleur Gouvernement, le bruit s'était maintenu avec persistance dans la population que ces signatures devaient être envoyées à Constantinople avec une adresse dans laquelle il serait dit que la population du Sandjak d'Andrinople appelait de ses voeux le prochain retour des autorités Turques. Après avoir longtemps contenu sa colère, la population lui donna enfin un libre cours le 6 Février à la nouvelle que le Traité de Paix définitif avec la Turquie venait d'être signé et que les Troupes Russes allaient incessamment évacuer Andrinople. Alors, en apprenant de la bouche du Gouverneur qu'une émigration en masse n'était pas possible, la foule, persuadée qu'une pareille réponse ne pouvait avoir été faite que par suite des intrigues du Métropolitain qu'elle détestait, se décida à le traîner au konak afin de l'y forcer à confesser publiquement ses méfaits.

Tous les faits ci-dessus exposés sont confirmés par les dépositions des femmes Grecques Lambrini Kristaki, Zoana Angelos, Anastasie Levterova, et Wassilika Markova; des Bulgares Janaki Manev, et Grégoire Tanasek; des soldats de police Stéphane Vassilieff et Alphonso Ristio; des Généraux Majors Molostvoff et Velitchowski; et des Bulgares Tascha Apostoloff, Nicolas Apostoloff, Dimitri Manoff, Nicolas Taschoff, et Georges Apostoloff.

Des personnes impliquées dans la présente affaire en qualité d'accusés:—

1. Les femmes Grecques Lambrini Kristaki, Hélène Vassilaki, Catherine Bakal-Nicoloff, Hélène Tchelepout, et Anastasie Lefteroff, s'avouent coupables des faits suivants; après avoir reçu du Gouverneur l'ordre de se retirer, supposant que le Gouverneur ne leur avait défendu d'émigrer en Bulgarie que par suite des intrigues de Monseigneur Dionysios, elles se sont rendues à la Métropole Grecque afin d'amener le Métropolitain au konak, et là, en présence du Gouverneur et du peuple assemblée, lui faire avouer sa trahison.

En outre elles ont déposé qu'en entrant dans la cour elles avaient commencé par inviter le Métropolitain à les suivre au konak. Lorsque celui-ci, au lieu d'accéder à leur prière, se mit à les injurier, l'une des accusées la femme Lambrini Kristaki, s'est précipitée la première sur lui, et le saisissant d'une main à la barbe et de l'autre aux parties génitales, l'a jeté à bas du perron sur lequel il se tenait. A ce sujet, les accusées Hélène Tchelepout, et Anastasie Lefteroff, affirment que tout en faisant

partie de la foule qui s'est ruée sur le Métropolitain elles ne l'ont personellement ni battu, ni égratigné.

2. La femme Bulgare Anna Gergievna Barbanout s'avoue coupable de ce que, en dépit de l'ordre exprès donné par le Gouverneur, et portant que l'on eût à se retirer, elle est allée à la Métropole Grecque dans le but d'amener Monseigneur Dionysios au konak. L'accusée ajoute qu'elle marchait derrière les autres et n'a pris aucune part aux voies de fait dont le Métropolitain a été victime.

3. La femme Bulgare Jéliaso Todorova, ne s'est pas reconnue coupable, mais sa culpabilité est prouvée par les dépositions de Lambrini Kristaki, laquelle affirme qu'elle l'a aidée à jeter par terre le Métropolitain.

4. Janaki Maneff et Nicolas Kiroff, tout en se reconnaissant coupables de ce que, malgré l'ordre de se retirer donné à la foule par le Gouverneur, ils sont allés à la Métropole Grecque dans le but d'amener Monseigneur Dionysios au konak et de le forcer là, à avouer qu'il les avait trahis et livrés aux Turcs, prétendent n'avoir pris personnellement aucune part aux voies de fait dont le Métropolitain a été victime, à quoi Nicolas Kiroff ajoute que d'abord il n'avait pas voulu aller à la Métropole, mais qu'il avait été entraîné par la foule.

Enfin, tous les accusés affirment unanimement qu'ils n'avaient nullement l'intention de faire un acte quelconque de violence contre l'Archevêque, qu'ils voulaient seulement l'amener au konak.

Quant aux coups, aux égratignures, et à la lacération de ses vêtements, tout cela avait été l'œuvre uniquement des femmes, que les injures du Métropolitain avaient exasperées.

Interrogées sur cette affaire, le Métropolitain Dionysios et l'Hiérodiacre Mélentios ont déposé qu'au nombre de ceux qui les avaient attaqués, il n'y avait eu ni Grecs, ni femmes, et que le crime avait été commis uniquement par des hommes Bulgares. A ce propos Monseigneur Dionysios a ajouté que pendant que les Bulgares le battaient et le foulaient aux pieds, il lui avait été enlevé une montre de la valeur de 5 à 6 livres Turques et une paire de lunettes qu'il avait payée un rouble. Mais ces dépositions qui ont été évidemment faites dans le but de laisser retomber tout l'odieux du crime sur les Bulgares, sont réfutées non-seulement par les aveux des femmes Grecques coupables ci-dessus énumérées, mais encore par les dépositions des témoins suivants, tous Grecs, et appartenant à la maison même du Métropolitain.

Angelos, Nikita Athanase, Anastase Pheokare Jonitza, Antoine Hadji-Stéphane, Georgias Joannis, et Théodore Paraskide, qui tous affirment que la foule se composait d'hommes et de femmes et que les femmes étaient en avant et les hommes derrière elles.

Prenant en considération les faits ci-dessus exposés sont accusés;

1. Les femmes Grecques Lambrini Kristaki, âgée de 35 ans, Catherine Bakal-Nicolova, âgée de 50 ans, Hélène Tchelepout, âgée de 40 ans, Hélène Vasilaki, âgée de 30 ans, Anastasie Lefteroff, âgée de 35 ans;

2. Les femmes Bulgares Anne Barbanout, âgée de 48 ans, et Jelesa Todorova, âgée de 40 ans;

3. Les Bulgares Nicolas Kiroff, âgé de 35 ans, et Janaki Maneff, âgé de 41 ans, de ce que le 6 Février de cette année, malgré un ordre exprès reçu par eux de son Excellence le Gouverneur Militaire d'Andrinople, Général Major Molostvoff, auquel ils s'étaient adressés avec une foule d'environ 2,000 personnes pour en obtenir l'autorisation d'émigrer en masse soit en Bulgarie, soit en Roumélie Orientale, ordre leur enjoignant d'avoir à se retirer et d'attendre tranquillement l'arrivée du Gouverneur-Général, au lieu d'obéir à cet ordre ils se sont rendus à la Métropole Grecque, afin d'y prendre Monseigneur Dionysios, aux intrigues duquel ils attribuaient la réponse défavorable que le Gouverneur leur avait faite, amener son Eminence dans la cour du konak, et lui faire là publiquement avouer qu'il les avait trahis et livrés aux Turcs. Pour mettre ce projet à exécution, les accusés en Compagnie d'autres Bulgares et Grecs, de femmes Bulgares, et de femmes Grecques, au nombre d'environ 500, sont entrés dans la maison du Métropolitain et d'abord l'ont invité à les suivre au konak, en suite de quoi lorsque son Eminence a refusé d'obtempérer à leur désir et a injurié les femmes, les accusées Lambrini Kristaki, Hélène Vassilaki, Catherine Bakal-Nikoloff, et la Bulgare Jélésa Todorova, se sont les premières précipitées sur le Métropolitain, et après l'avoir jeté par terre se sont mises à le battre et à l'égratigner, s'acharnant à lui déchirer les vêtements, après quoi il a été traîné dans la direction du konak, jusqu'au moment où le Général-Major Velitchowski parvint avec l'aide de quelques Grecs et de deux soldats de police arrivés sur ces entrefaites, à le retirer des mains de ces forcénes, peu d'instants avant que l'approche de la force

armée ne mit en fuite et les accusés et tout le reste de la foule qui avait pris part au désordre.

Les dits crimes sont prévus par les Articles 264 et 256 du Code Criminel, et c'est pourquoi, en vertu du premier paragraphe de la Proclamation de son Altesse Impériale le Commandant-en-chef de l'armée active, en date du 1er Juin, 1877, les coupables ci-dessus nommés, conformément, aux conclusions présentées par le Procureur Militaire,

Sont traduits en cour martiale, par ordre de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale.

Fait le 28 Février, 1879.

Le Procureur Militaire près la Cour Martiale siégeant à Philippopoli,
(Signé) Lieutenant-Colonel MORDVINOFF.

Pour copie conforme et traduction:
Le Chef de la Chancellerie du Gouverneur-Général,
(Signé) P. NEKLUDOF.

No. 152.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 127.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, March 22, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of the act of accusation against Osman Bey.

Having heard that Prince Tzeretelew had taken up the question with the Turks, I thought it better, in the interest of Osman Bey himself, to abstain from all action which might embitter the discussion, the more so as I had heard that the Russian officers were much excited in defence of what they considered their rights.

Prince Tzeretelew had privately advised the Turkish Commissioners to appeal to the Military Court of Cassation at Sophia, and they had furnished Osman Bey with a petition for the purpose.

This was never presented, Osman Bey declaring now to the Turks that he was told he should be sent for in time to make the appeal.

On Thursday, notwithstanding the reassuring statements I had received, the family of the poor man sent to me, on my way to the Commission, to say that he was to be despatched the same night on his journey to Siberia. I learnt also that on a parade in the konak his sentence had been read to him, the usual preliminary to immediate departure. During this ceremony Osman Bey held in his hand a paper, which was probably the petition of appeal he should have presented sooner.

General Stolipine being absent, I counselled the Turkish Commissioners to accompany me at once to General Hübsch, and, for the purpose, requested the temporary suspension of the sitting.

We could not find Baron Hübsch either at his house or at the konak, and we went, therefore, to M. Nekludoff, the Chief of General Stolipine's Chancery. This gentleman declared that Osman Bey would not be sent away till the return of the Governor-General, adding, unofficially, his belief that the sentence would be modified.

As the Governor-General was expected the same afternoon, the respite allowed was not very long.

Later I addressed to his Excellency the letter, of which, as well as of the answer, I inclose a copy.

The Turkish Commissioners called on the Governor-General and obtained from him satisfactory assurances. I telegraphed, *en clair*, on the subject to your Lordship, to Lord Dufferin, and to Mr. Mâlet, and trust that the unhappy man may soon be released.

As this was my first object, I appealed to the mercy, rather than to the justice, of General Stolipine, and without raising any of the many issues presented by the anomalous legal bearings of the sentence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 152.

Act of Accusation against Osman Bey.

(Traduction.)

LE 11 Décembre, 1878, le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne, Sir Drummond Wolff, fit transmettre au Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale copie d'une requête des habitants du quartier d'Ibni-Kassim, dans laquelle ils soulevaient des plaintes contre les soldats Russes, qui auraient détruit les murs et autres parties en bois des mosquées, et qu'ils ont eu outre l'intention de détruire les maisons occupées par les habitants du dit quartier. Les constatations nécessaires ayant été ordonnées à la suite de cette requête, il en résulte que les mosquées et les maisons se trouvaient dans le même état que lors de la fin de la guerre, et que les Turcs habitant le quartier d'Ibni-Kassim déclarent n'avoir autorisé personne de porter plainte contre les soldats Russes, mais qu'ils étaient seulement adressés à la Commission pour demander des secours pour la reconstruction des mosquées et l'organisation des écoles.

Les Turcs nommés Ahmed Suleïman, Osman Bey, Mehmed Chevki, et Muzaïez-Ibrahim-Oglou, dont les sceaux avaient été apposés à la plainte, invités à comparaître comme témoins, ont déposé pendant l'instruction que la requête avait été écrite par Osman Bey, mais qu'il n'y était pas question des soldats Russes. Lorsque la copie de la requête fut montrée à Osman Bey, il déclara voir pour la première fois ce document et la copie n'était pas conforme à l'original par lui écrit et présenté à la Commission. L'original de la requête ayant été exhibé, et ayant été trouvé conforme à la copie, et le dit original ayant été montré à Osman Bey, il reconnut l'avoir écrit sans autorisation de la part de ces concitoyens; quant à l'assertion que les mosquées auraient été détruites par des soldats Russes, il déclara l'avoir émise par l'ignorance (stupidité). Cette déclaration d'Osman Bey ne mérite évidemment aucune attention, et il est impossible de repousser le soupçon que la requête ait été écrite sous l'influence d'une tierce personne, faute de quoi Osman Bey n'en aurait pas caché le véritable contenu aux témoins susmentionnés qui n'y avaient apposé leurs sceaux que parce qu'ils avaient la conviction que la requête écrite par Osman Bey ne contenait qu'une demande de secours pour la réparation des mosquées et des écoles.

En vertu de ce qui précède, le nommé Osman Bey, habitant de Philippopoli, âgé de 40 ans, est accusé d'avoir prétendu et inventé le mensonge que les soldats Russes ont détruit les mosquées et les écoles du quartier Ibni-Kassim, et de l'avoir inséré dans la requête rédigée au nom des habitants du quartier d'Ibni-Kassim, d'avoir présenté cette requête calomnieuse à la Commission Européenne pour la convaincre que la population Turque était opprimée par les autorités Russes en Roumélie Orientale, et de s'être par ce fait rendu coupable du délit prévu par les Articles 932 et 277 du Code Pénal.

Fait à Philippopoli, le 14 Février, 1879.

Le Procureur de la Cour Martiale,
(Signé) MORDVINOFF.

Conforme à l'original:
Le Président,
(Signé) Colonel VASSILENKO.

Liste des personnes présentes à l'audience ordonnée pour le jugement d'Osman Bey:—

Personnes citées à comparaître comme témoins:—

Ahmed Suleïman.
Mehmed Chevki.
Muzaïez Ibrahim.

Tous trois siégeant à Philippopoli.

Le Procureur de la Cour Martiale,
(Signé) MORDVINOFF.

Le Greffier,
(Signé) [Illisible.]

Juges et Procureur:—
Le Président, Colonel Vassilenko.
Juges de l'Audience: Major Chamcheff, Lieutenant Sokal, Capitaine de Cavalerie Kamrochinski, Capitaine Bogaïewski.
Procureur: Lieutenant-Colonel Mordvinoff.

Le Greffier,
(Signé) [Illisible.]

Inclosure 2 in No. 152.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to General Stolipine.

M. le Gouverneur-Général, *Philippopolis, March 20, 1879.*

SOME days ago I learnt that the Court Martial had sentenced to perpetual banishment in Siberia the man Osman Bey, on account of the petition I forwarded to your Excellency on the 23rd December last, in pursuance of the understanding arrived at between Count Schouvaloff and the Marquis of Salisbury, and the instructions given me on the subject by Her Majesty's Government.

I had fully understood, from private information, that the sentence was not to be carried out, and I therefore thought it expedient not to address your Excellency on the matter.

I learnt, however, to-day, with considerable consternation, that the sentence had been read to this man at a parade held at the konak, and that he is to be at once sent away.

I consequently called on M. Nekludoff, in the absence of your Excellency and Baron Hübsch, and received from him the assurance that the sentence would not be carried out until revised by your Excellency, and he at the same time non-officially expressed his belief that it would be modified.

As the question involves considerations of great importance, and has been brought by Her Majesty's Government before the Government of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor, I trust your Excellency will be good enough to inform me whether or not it is the intention of your Excellency to defer the execution of the sentence until the decision of the Imperial Government can be received.

I make this request to your Excellency the more readily as this poor man, who is a cripple, has a large family entirely depending on him for support, and has already been imprisoned for two months and a-half. I should be obliged by an early reply so as to be able to telegraph at once to Her Majesty's Government.

I am told that an appeal to the Court of Cassation was delayed in consequence of a misunderstanding.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 3 in No. 152.

General Stolipine to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

M. le Commissaire, *Philippopoli, le 9 Mars*, 1879.

EN réponse à votre lettre en date d'hier, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que l'Arrêt de la Cour Martiale concernant le nommé Osman Bey, d'origine Turque, accusé de faux, est entré en vigueur, le terme d'appel étant passé, et ne saurait être cassé que de décision suprême, par grâce de Sa Majesté l'Empereur.

C'est donc aux pieds de Sa Majesté que j'aurai l'honneur, par voie légale, de soumettre cette affaire.

La justice, tant civile que militaire, étant en Russie tout-à-fait indépendante de l'Administration, je n'ai aucun droit de modifier en quoi que ce soit l'Arrêt du Tribunal; je ne puis même pas en suspendre l'exécution au delà du terme fixé par la loi.

M. Nekludoff m'a fait, à mon arrivée, son rapport sur l'entrevue qu'il a eu le matin avec vous et messieurs vos collègues Ottomans au sujet de cette affaire.

Je n'ai pu que blâmer son ingérence quoique provoqué, il est vrai, dans une affaire qui n'est pas du ressort de ses attributions.

Toutefois l'assurance de M. Nekludoff vous a donnée officiellement sur le fait qu'Osman Bey ne quitterait pas la prison de Philippopoli jusqu'à mon retour, était parfaitement juste et fondée.

De mon côté, je me permets d'espérer que la haute clémence de mon auguste Maître allégera le sort d'Osman Bey, et que ce pauvre homme qui, dans son ignorance, a été la victime de fâcheuses influences, retrouvera sous peu son foyer et sa famille.

Je suis heureux, Monsieur, de pouvoir m'associer à vous dans cette bonne œuvre, et je vous prie d'agréer, &c.

(Signé) ARCADI STOLIPINE.

P.S.—J'ai télégraphié dans ce sens au Prince Labanoff.

A. S.

No. 153.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 128.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, March* 22, 1879.

WITH reference to my preceding despatch respecting the case of Osman Bey, I venture to call your Lordship's attention to the curious state of the law under which his condemnation took place.

On the first arrival of the Russian forces in these regions, martial law was proclaimed, and it has still continued in force, notwithstanding the different Treaties that have since been signed.

The Russians contend that wherever Russian martial law is proclaimed they are entitled to exile those condemned under it to Siberia, this being a punishment provided for in their Penal Code.

The question arises in the first instance as to how far this pretension is generally well founded; in the second, how far the Russian authorities have been entitled to exercise this right in a province solemnly declared by Treaty to be a province of the Ottoman Empire.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

P.S.—I learn that during the occupation several persons have been condemned and transported to Siberia. The Russian Commissioners say that this course has been pursued indifferently for Turks and Bulgarians; but seeing the indulgence shown by General Stolipine to those who hinder our Financial Administration by violent demonstrations I doubt whether any Bulgarians can have met with so hard a measure of justice as that meted out to Osman Bey.

H. D. W.

No. 154.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 129.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, March* 22, 1879.

YESTERDAY, at a private sitting consisting of Baron de Ring, M. de Kallay, the Russian Commissioner, M. de Braunschweig, M. Vernoni, and myself, we went through the Chapters relative to agriculture, public works, the advancement of officials, and "Cultes."

Of the former I cannot forward to your Lordship copies. Being long, and of a technical character, we agreed not to print them until they had been definitively altered.

The short Chapter regulating the advancement of officials has been practically adopted, and I send a copy in manuscript.

I endeavoured to argue in favour of a higher salary for the Governor-General, but received no support from any of my colleagues. These unanimously declared that it was fixed at a far higher scale than assigned to posts of a similar character in their own countries.

The Chapter of "Cultes" prepared by Baron de Ring is herewith inclosed with the alterations. The Russians opposed the wording of Article 5 as introducing, without specifying them, the rights reserved *ab antiquo* to France. I suggested the amendment which was accepted by the French Commissioners.

Article 12 is the great difficulty. It was drawn up by Baron de Ring, as he admitted, in concert with the Exarch. I told him, as did M. de Kallay, that I could not accept it, and suggested an amendment limiting the period within which the Sultan's veto could be given, as in the case of civil functionaries. He has asked for a short time to consider this point, and I hope we shall arrive at an understanding in a day or two.

Last Wednesday week I presented, in the name of a Sub-Commission consisting of MM. Vernoni, de Braunschweig, and myself, Chapter 13, of which copies are inclosed, on the organisation of real property.

This was accepted by every one, even Colonel Schepelew, when Baron de Ring insisted on being allowed time to introduce an amendment on paragraph 4 of Article 2, and to go into fuller details as to the redemption of the vacouf. This was at once taken up by by Prince Tzeretelew, and the discussion was adjourned.

Although repeatedly pressed by me, M. de Ring has not yet presented his amendment, but he now promises to do so very shortly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have found it necessary to address your Lordship a further despatch on the Chapter "Cultes."

H. D. W.

Inclosure 1 in No. 154.

Chapter Regulating the Promotion of Officials.

ARTICLE 1er. Les fonctionnaires tant nommés qu'élus sont personnellement responsables envers l'Etat de tous les actes accomplis par eux dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions.

L'Etat est directement responsable de toutes pertes et dommages causés aux particuliers par la négligence ou le mauvais vouloir des fonctionnaires.

Il a le droit de poursuivre les fonctionnaires coupables pour recouvrer les indemnités payées par lui du chef de ces pertes et dommages.

Pour leurs actes privés, les fonctionnaires sont soumis aux mêmes responsabilités que les autres citoyens.

Art. 2. Les peines disciplinaires contre les fonctionnaires sont: la réprimande, l'amende, et la suspension de leurs fonctions.

Ces peines sont prononcées, quand il s'agit de Magistrats, par le Tribunal de l'Instance Supérieure, quand il s'agit de Magistrats de la Cour d'Appel, par les sections réunies de cette même Cour, et quand il s'agit des autres fonctionnaires, par l'autorité dont ceux-ci relèvent immédiatement.

Art. 3. Nul fonctionnaire ne peut être destitué, ni mis à la retraite contre son gré, sans jugement.

Tout fonctionnaire nommé par l'Etat, et jouissant d'un traitement régulier porté sur le budget de la province, a droit d'une pension. Cette pension commence après dix ans de service, et atteint le total du dernier traitement après quarante de service non-interrompue.

Art. 4. Les fonctionnaires engagés par contrats ne peuvent avoir d'autres prétentions vis-à-vis de la province que celles qui découlent des contrats mêmes.

Art. 5. Une loi provinciale fixera les détails d'application des stipulations contenues dans les quatres Articles précédents, en tant qu'il n'y est pas déjà pourvu par le présent Statut.

Art. 6. Le traitement du Gouverneur-Général est fixé à 300,000 piastres en or par an, et à 100,000 piastres de frais extraordinaires.

Le traitement des Directeurs-Généraux est fixé provisoirement à 5,000 piastres par mois. Celui de tous les autres fonctionnaires sera fixé à titre provisoire, par des Ordonnances du Gouverneur-Général.

L'Assemblée Provinciale, dans sa première Session, fixera d'une manière définitive le traitement de tous les fonctionnaires. Celui du Gouverneur-Général ne pourra pas être modifié.

Inclosure 2 in No. 154.

CHAPITRE XIII.—ORGANISATION DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ FONCIÈRE.

ARTICLE 1er. Au plus tard à la deuxième Session ordinaire de l'Assemblée Provinciale, le Gouverneur-Général présentera à celle-ci un Projet de Loi traitant de la propriété foncière.

Art. 2. Ce Projet de Loi devra:—

(1.) Porter création d'un cadastre des propriétés territoriales de la province;

(2.) Décréter l'abolition des dîmes.

(3.) Remplacer celles-ci par un impôt foncier.

(4.) Convertir en propriété foncière libre, moyennant rachat avec le concours du

Trésor Provincial, les terres et autres immeubles régis par le Vacouf ou sujets à une servitude féodale.

(5.) Régler le régime des hypothèques.

(6.) Réformer le système actuellement existant des registres de la propriété foncière.

Les nouveaux registres devront contenir :—

(*a.*) Le nom du propriétaire de chaque immeuble, ainsi que la transcription de ses titres de propriété.

(*b.*) Les servitudes foncières et autres charges permanentes grevant l'immeuble.

(*c.*) Les priviléges et les hypothèques grevant le dit immeuble.

No. 155.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 130. Confidential.)

Philippopolis, March 22, 1879.

My Lord,

FOR some time past M. de Kallay has, with my knowledge and concurrence, carried on a double negotiation with the Russian and Turkish Commissioners for a final agreement on the second reading of our Project.

He has managed this so well as to reduce the differences to a very narrow point.

It is much to be feared, however, that the new proposals of Baron de Ring may throw great obstacles in our way, as if the Turks are obliged to make fresh reserves the Russians may make this an excuse for receding from the whole arrangement.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 156.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 131.)

Philippopolis, March 22, 1879.

My Lord,

M. NEKLUDOFF, who has hitherto been in charge of the Russian Red Cross Society, has been obliged to give up those duties as incompatible with the hard work imposed on him as Chief of General Stolipine's Chancery.

The head of the whole of the Red Cross organization, M. Donoouroff, has consequently come to Philippopolis to replace him.

This gentleman, who lives next door, called on me yesterday, and, in the course of conversation, told me he expected his Chancery here in about three weeks. I asked him whether this step was worth while for the short period that remains until the evacuation.

He replied that the Red Cross would be the last to leave. The evacuation was to commence on the 3rd May, but three months were allowed for the completion of it.

I know that Russian officers and Generals are saying loudly that the occupation is to be prolonged; but on speaking to Prince Tzeretelew, he positively denied it.

The statement, however, of M. Donoouroff, made without premeditation, indicates that there is some intention of the kind.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 157.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 132.)

Philippopolis, March 23, 1879.

My Lord,

AT yesterday's sitting we passed Chapter X: "Cultes," with the exception of Article 5, which the French have kept open.

Baron de Ring, who had drawn up the Chapter, was the author of the paragraph: "Les droits reconnus *ab antiquo* à la France sont expressément réservés." This was objected to by Prince Tzeretelew as being too vague, and I, therefore, proposed, the amendment which your Lordship will see in the margin. On this Baron de Ring said that he regarded my amendment as practically carrying out his views; but he could not at present accept it.

It was voted by the six other Commissioners. As I considered that the language of Article 6 might act as a hindrance to the worship of religious sects not already existing in Turkey, I proposed the omission of the words "à domicile" in paragraph 2 of that Article. I at first proposed to insert the words "librement et publiquement," but finding the Russians prepared to base on these words some further pretensions in favour of the Bulgarian Bishops, I confined myself to the omission of the two words in question, by which means, I think, my object is achieved.

The Turks, M. de Kallay, and myself, having objected to the wording of Article 12, I proposed an amendment to limit the period during which the Sultan's veto could be given. To this the Russians refused their assent. They said that if the Porte could give its veto at all to Bulgarian Bishops it would do so constantly, and instanced the case of Macedonia, where the Exarch has not yet received authority to name his Bishops. The Turks opposed the original wording principally on the ground that it interfered with the rights of the Greek and Armenian churches of access to the Sultan. M. de Kallay and myself also opposed it, when M. de Ring declared that without it there would be a revolution in the country, as the free practice of their religion was the principle desire of the Bulgarians.

M. Vernoni then proposed the amendment, which your Lordship will find in the margin of the inclosure. This the Turks said they would accept personally, reserving, however, the rights of their Government to reject it. M. de Kallay and myself then accepted it on the same terms.

We managed to raise the Governor-General's salary to £ T. 4,000, in gold, per annum.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 157.

CHAPITRE X.—CULTES.

ARTICLE 1er. Les communautés religieuses ayant une existence légale en Roumélie Orientale conserveront les droits, immunités, priviléges, et exemptions dont elles jouissaient avant la guerre.

Art. 2. Aucune entrave ne pourra être apportée, soit à l'organisation hiérarchique des différentes communautés, soit à leurs rapports avec leurs Chefs spirituels, indigènes, ou étrangers.

Art. 3. Les membres des différents clergés ne pourront, sous aucun prétexte, être privés en Roumélie Orientale des honneurs et préséances que les Sultans leur ont accordés.

Art. 4. Les ecclésiastiques, les pèlerins, et les moines de toutes les nationalités voyageant ou établie temporairement en Roumélie Orientale jouiront des avantages acquis aux membres indigènes des clergés dont ils font partie.

Art. 5. Les dispositions de l'Article LXII du Traité de Berlin relatives à la protection des personnes susmentionnées et de leurs établissements religieux et de bienfaisance, recevront leur plein effet dans la Roumélie Orientale.

Art. 6. Nulle communauté nouvelle ne pourra être investie de droits, immunités, priviléges et exemptions égaux ou analogues à ceux dont jouissent les communautés religieuses légalement constituées, si ce n'est en vertu d'une loi provinciale.

Toutefois les personnes qui n'appartiennent à aucun culte reconnu pourront pratiquer le leur, pourvu qu'il n'ait rien de contraire aux bonnes mœurs et à l'ordre public. Elles devront d'ailleurs se conformer aux lois et règlements sur la matière.

Art. 7. Les communautés religieuses ayant une existence légale en Roumélie Orientale conserveront leurs biens meubles et immeubles.

Elles ne pourront être expropriées de leurs biens immeubles que pour cause d'utilité publique dûment constatée, dans les cas et de la manière établis par la loi, moyennant une juste et préalable indemnité.

Elles ne pourront être expropriées de leurs biens meubles que pour satisfaire à un intérêt majeur de salubrité publique.

Art. 8. Les communautés religieuses continuent à percevoir, avec l'aide et sous

la protection des autorités publiques, les redevances consacrées par l'usage. Le montant de ces redevances ne pourra être élevé qu'en vertu d'une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général rendue en la forme d'un règlement d'administration publique.

Les produits des redevances en question échappent à l'impôt.

Art. 9. Sont pareillement exempts d'impôts les édifices consacrés au culte, à l'instruction, ou à un but de charité, ainsi que les habitations de ville et de campagne des membres des différents clergés ; enfin les enclos où se trouvent ces édifices et habitations.

Le même privilége s'étend au mobilier des édifices consacrés au culte, à l'instruction, ou à un but charitable ; il s'étend aussi aux meubles à l'usage des membres du clergé et de toute personne attachée, à un titre quelconque, au service d'un édifice religieux, scolaire, ou charitable.

Art. 10. Par contre, les différentes communautés seront tenues de faire face aux charges qui pèsent actuellement sur elles en ce qui concerne l'entretien de leurs établissements scolaires et charitables.

Art. 11. Les immeubles appartenant aux communautés religieuses et qui ne servent directement ni au culte, ni à l'instruction, ni à un but charitable, mais qui doivent être considérés comme des propriétés de rapport sont, en matière d'impôt, soumis au droit commun.

Il en est de même des valeurs mobilières ayant le caractère de propriétés de rapport.

Art. 12. Les Prélats de la communauté Bulgare pourront désormais recevoir l'investiture, soit directement de la Sublime Porte, soit du Gouverneur Général, qui la leur donnera au nom et par délégation de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan. Quant aux Chefs des autres communautés religieuses qui recevraient précédemment leur investiture de la Sublime Porte, ils continueront à la recevoir comme par le passé.

No. 158.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 133.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, March 23, 1879.*

I HAVE already informed your Lordship that Messrs. Coutouly and Schmidt returned on Thursday from the tour of inspection they had undertaken with General Stolipine, on the declaration of his Excellency that he could not take the responsibility of any further journey undertaken by M. Schmidt.

On Friday M. de Coutouly gave an account of his proceedings ; and he is now writing a Report, of which I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the first instalment. I fear no further portion will be ready before the departure of the messenger.

At our sitting yesterday we received from M. Schmidt a letter offering his resignation. A copy of this letter I have the honour to inclose, at the same time submitting to your Lordship's consideration the reasons brought forward by M. Schmidt for taking this step. The Commission were universally of opinion that M. Schmidt should be requested to continue his functions at all events temporarily, while the conduct of the Russian authorities towards M. Schmidt and the administration of the Commission was the subject of severe comments on the part of all the Commissioners, except the Russians and the German Commissioner, who was silent. M. Vernoni made some strong remarks on the subject.

To-morrow we are to have a meeting to discuss the whole question. The Russian Commissioners were anxious to confine the discussion to the resignation of M. Schmidt. I stated, however, my opinion that it was necessary for us clearly to establish that the break-down of our Administration under Article XIX of the Treaty of Berlin was due, not to any act of ours, but entirely to the action of the Russian authorities. This was the opinion of the generality, and our discussion to-morrow will, probably, be based on this point.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 158.

Report by M. de Coutouly.

AVANT de commencer le récit de l'expédition que nous avons faite à Slivno, le Directeur-Général des Finances et moi, je tiens à vous rappeler, Messieurs, que M. Schmidt a entrepris ce voyage sur un ordre formel de la Commission. Je tiens à constater en outre que depuis longtemps le Chef de l'Administration Civile dans la Roumélie Orientale, son Excellence M. le Général Stolipine, avait engagé avec insistance le Chef de notre Administration Financière de se rendre à Slivno pour inspecter les Caisses, étudier les livres de la comptabilité publique, s'entretenir avec les principaux fonctionnaires civils et les employés des finances de ce Département. M. le Gouverneur-Général espérait qu'il suffirait d'un échange verbal d'explications précises pour mettre fin aux regrettables malentendus que M. Schmidt et lui avaient vainement essayé de faire disparaître à force de lettres, de télégrammes, et d'ordres circulaires.

Deux fois déjà que notre Directeur des Finances avait essayé de faire ce que le Général Stolipine lui conseillait, d'accord avec la Commission tout entière ; et ces deux tentatives, vous le savez, avaient échoué par suite de manifestations hostiles d'un caractère fâcheux.

M. Schmidt vous a la semaine dernière conté les étranges incidents de la deuxième de ces entreprises. Mais, comme l'autorité vous avait communiqué une dépêche du Gouverneur de Slivno, affirmant que si le Directeur-Général des Finances avait persisté il aurait pu, grâce aux mesures prises pour rétablir l'ordre, pénétrer dans la ville de Slivno, en dépit de la résistance de la population, vous avez décidé à l'unanimité que M. Schmidt devait immédiatement repartir, et cette fois encore vous vous êtes trouvé d'accord avec M. le Général Stolipine. En effet, son Excellence n'a pas hésité un seul instant à déclarer qu'il était nécessaire de vaincre la résistance d'une population évidemment égarée par de perfides conseils, et elle a spontanément offert au Directeur-Général de la conduire à Slivno, pour qu'il put y exercer librement, sous sa haute protection, le mandat dont vous l'avez investi en vertu de l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin.

Pour ce qui me concerne personnellement, comme vous savez que des bruits absurdes ont couru sur mon compte, je vous prie, Messieurs, de vouloir bien me laisser faire aussi quelques constatations au Protocole. Vous vous souvenez qu'avant de connaître les intentions de M. le Général Stolipine j'avais offert d'accompagner M. Schmidt à Slivno. J'avais pour cela deux raisons : la première était, qu'il me paraissait convenable de prouver à notre Directeur des Finances par des actes que les membres de la Commission sont prêts à partager avec lui les désagréments et même les dangers auxquels nous l'avons vu s'exposer de si bonne grâce pour l'accomplissement de son devoir ; la seconde, plus particulière, était que j'étais enchanté de trouver une occasion de faire voir aux propagateurs des bruits ridicules, auxquels j'ai fait allusion plus haut, qu'il ne me répugnait aucunement d'être sifflé ou tué en compagnie de M. Schmidt.

Lorsque la nouvelle nous est parvenue que M. le Gouverneur-Général désirait accompagner le Directeur des Finances, je n'avais plus, il est vrai, de raison de supposer que M. Schmidt pouvait risquer quoique ce soit ; mais comme la plupart d'entre vous ont bien voulu m'engager à partir quand même, je n'ai pas cru devoir retirer l'offre que je venais de faire.

Ceci dit, Messieurs, je vais vous raconter simplement et sans commentaires, tous les détails de notre expédition.

Nous sommes partis Vendredi matin avec M. le Gouverneur-Général et le Colonel Kessiakoff, un officier Bulgare très-distingué au service de la Russie, et qui commande actuellement la milice de la Roumélie Orientale. Le Général Stolipine avait avec lui deux Aides-de-camp, et M. Schmidt s'était fait accompagner par un des employés de la Direction des Finances, M. Skyschowsky, Secrétaire Interprète, qui parle le Français, le Russe, le Bulgare, et le Turc. L'escorte se composent d'une quizaine de Cosaques et de quelques gendarmes Russes à cheval.

Nous sommes arrivés à Yamboli à huit heures du soir. Le Gouverneur de Slivno, M. Fenoff, le Natchalnik, ou Chef de l'Arrondissement de Yamboli, M. Liversky, Capitaine Russe, et plusieurs autres fonctionnaires civils et militaires nous attendaient à la gare. A l'entrée de la ville le Général a été reçu par le clergé, les autorités et les Notables de l'endroit ; un grand nombre de maisons étaient illuminées avec des lanternes Vénitiennes ; sur une place nous avons rencontré une compagnie de la milice que le Général a passée en revue.

Nous avons été conduits ensuite dans la maison du Natchalnik, où nous avons passé la nuit. C'est là que M. Schmidt avait été assiégé par la foule au commencement de la semaine.

Une dizaine d'officiers supérieurs étaient réunis chez le Chef de l'Arrondissement. Parmi ces messieurs se trouvait le Général Tichméneff, dont le Directeur des Finances vous a parlé en vous racontant les incidents de sa première visite à Yamboli. Je dois vous dire à ce propos qu'un assez grand nombre d'officiers supérieurs se trouvent en ce moment dans cette ville, par laquelle doit passer une grande partie de l'armée qui vient d'évacuer le Sandjak d'Andrinople. Le premier soin du Général Stolipine a été de faire subir un long interrogatoire à ceux des officiers présents qui avaient été témoins des scènes de désordre dont M. Schmidt avaient failli d'être victime.

Son Excellence a causé surtout avec le Général Tichméneff. Elle a ensuite interrogé le Natchalnik, le Commandant de la Drogine, le Commandant de la place, et les fonctionnaires civils de Yamboli. A quelles conclusions M. le Gouverneur-Général est arrivé à la suite de ces interrogatoires je ne saurais vous le dire, parce que son Excellence ne m'a fait connaître que quelques menus détails des explications qui lui ont été fournies. Mais je crois pouvoir dire que M. le Général Stolipine rend justice aux efforts du Natchalnik pour rétablir l'ordre.

Il m'a paru convaincu que si ce fonctionnaire n'avait pas été gêné par l'instruction un peu irrégulière de certains officiers supérieurs, de passage à Yamboli, dont le grade élevé pouvait intimider un simple capitaine, ce fonctionnaire aurait lutté avec plus d'avantages contre les émeutiers. En outre, je l'ai entendu blâmer ces officiers supérieurs d'avoir entamé avec la foule des discussions politiques, dont le résultat devait être d'exciter les manifestants au lieu de les calmer.

Enfin, le Gouverneur-Général m'a fait savoir que des paroles malheureuses avaient été prononcées par divers fonctionnaires. Ainsi, il paraît que le Commandant de la place, en réquisitionnant les troupes régulières ou la milice, pour rétablir l'ordre, avait dit qu'il s'agissait de défendre le Ministre Turc, et que cette parole répétée par plusieurs personnes avait augmenté la colère de la population, à laquelle des agitateurs avaient fait croire que l'objet de la mission de M. Schmidt était d'enlever les fonds de la province pour les envoyer à Stamboul.

M. le Gouverneur-Général a pu du reste se convaincre que M. Schmidt avait couru des dangers sérieux.

La foule était surexcitée à un degré dont M. le Directeur des Finances lui-même ne s'est peut-être pas rendu compte. On y remarquait des femmes de la ville de Yéni-Zagra dont les maris avaient été tués par les Turcs, et qui semblent avoir été appelées à Yamboli tout exprès pour prendre part à la manifestation contre le représentant de la Commission Européenne.

Pendant la nuit M. le Gouverneur de Slivno nous a quittés pour devancer le Général Stolipine à Slivno et prendre des mesures à l'effet d'assurer l'ordre sur la route et dans la ville même.

Le lendemain matin M. le Gouverneur-Général a passé en revue le Drogine de Yamboli et les volontaires irréguliers qui forment dans cette ville ce qu'en Roumélie Orientale on est convenu d'appeler une "Société de Gymnastique."

Je crois devoir vous dire ici, Messieurs, que nous avons été très frappés de la bonne tenue et de l'attitude martiale de la Drogine de Yamboli.

Nous suivions le Général Stolipine pendant la revue, et nous nous sommes tenus à côté de lui quand la troupe a défilé. L'ordre est resté parfait.

M. Schmidt, que la foule connaissait pour l'avoir vu peu de jours auparavant passer au milieu d'elle sous la protection d'une escorte considérable, n'a été l'objet d'aucune manifestation.

Le défilé terminé, sur un signal donné par un individu dont je ne connais pas la position sociale, la foule a successivement acclamé le Czar, l'armée russe, et le Gouverneur-Général. Après quoi le même individu a crié en Bulgare: "Vive la France, dont un représentant se trouve parmi nous," et ce cri a provoqué une explosion de hourrahs. Déjà la veille au soir, du reste, ma présence avait donné lieu à une manifestation analogue de la part d'un des Notables de la ville auquel j'avais été présenté par M. le Général Stolipine, et qui avait dit, en me donnant une poignée de main: "Vive la France, Amie des Bulgares."

Comme d'autres manifestations du même genre ont eu lieu le lendemain, et le surlendemain à Slivno, ainsi que la rumeur publique vous l'a déjà fait savoir, je vous prie, Messieurs, de vouloir bien me permettre de vous dire quelles sont d'après moi les causes directes de ces faits à coups si imprévus.

Le nombre des personnes élevées en France est assez considérable parmi les

Notables indigènes de cette province, surtout dans le département de Slivno; ces personnes paraissent avoir une certaine influence parmi leurs compatriotes. Or, vous n'ignorez pas que le journal la "Maritza" a publié depuis quelques semaines des articles pleins de flatteries à l'adresse de la France, qui était vivement sollicitée d'intervenir auprès des autres Puissances d'Europe pour obtenir des garanties assurant l'ordre en Roumélie Orientale après l'évacuation des troupes Russes. Ces articles ont sans doute fait naître l'idée parmi les personnes dont je parle, et parmi d'autres Notables, d'augmenter l'effet supposé des articles de la gazette populaire en organisant quelques démonstrations qui devaient, dans l'opinion des organisateurs, toucher profondément le cœur de M. le Commissaire de France et de son adjoint.

Il était environ 10 heures et demie quand nous avons quitté Yamboli avec notre escorte d'une vingtaine de cavaliers. Sur la route nous n'avons rien remarqué de particulier, mais à notre arrivée à Slivno, nous avons trouvé la ville en fête. La plupart des maisons étaient pavoisées. L'arc de triomphe que les habitants avaient élevé quelques jours auparavant en l'honneur du Général Todleben, qui avait passé par Slivno en se rendant a Varna, était encore debout avec sa décoration de verdure. Les autorités civiles et militaires de la ville attendaient le Gouverneur-Général sous cet arc de verdure. Environ 1,500 volontaires de la "Société de Gymnastique" de l'endroit formaient la haie sur le passage de son Excellence, qui les a fait ensuite défiler devant nous. Tous ces hommes étaient armés de fusils Krinka. Ils avaient fort bonne mine, et nous avons admiré la perfection relative des manœuvres qu'ils ont exécutées.

M. le Gouverneur-Général les a vivement complimentés. Quant à la Drogine de la ville et à l'escadron de la milice indigène, ils avaient été conduits hors ville pour être passés en revue par le Général Stolipine sur un véritable champ de manœuvre, mais à une distance telle que son Excellence n'a pas cru pouvoir les rejoindre.

Vous me dispenserez, Messieurs, de vous raconter les détails de l'ovation dont le Général a été l'objet à la suite du défilé des volontaires irréguliers, mais je n'ai pas le droit de vous cacher, qu'à deux reprises nous avons entendu sur notre passage le cri de "Vive la République Française," poussé en Français par les jeunes gens de la "Realschule" de Slivno.

Quand nous sommes arrivés à la maison de M. le Gouverneur Ivanoff, nous n'avions remarqué aucun symptôme quelconque pouvant nous faire craindre une manifestation hostile; nous étions par conséquent en droit de croire que M. Schmidt serait à même d'accomplir tranquillement sa mission. Malheureusement nos illusions ne tardèrent pas à être détruites.

Vers 3 heures et demie une foule de femmes, poussées par des hommes qui restaient prudemment en arrière, envahit tout à coup le jardin qui se trouve derrière la maison du Gouverneur. Je me trouvais à ce moment, avec M. le Général Stolipine et le Directeur des Finances, dans le cabinet de travail de M. Ivanoff. Un officier m'appela pour me montrer ce qui se passait. Les femmes demandaient à grands cris qu'on leur livrât M. Schmidt. Sur les arbres des jardins voisins, il y avait un assez grand nombre de jeunes garçons qui s'attendaient évidemment à un spectacle émouvant. J'ai remarqué des hommes postés sur les toits des maisons qui entourent celle du Gouverneur. MM. les officiers qui m'avaient fait appeler, me supplièrent de ne pas avertir M. le Général Stolipine, parce qu'ils avaient l'espoir de faire cesser le désordre avant que son Excellence ne s'en aperçût. Déjà M. Ivanoff, le Colonel Kessiakoff, le Vice-Gouverneur, M. Rimski-Korsakoff, et plusieurs officiers étaient occupés dans le jardin à chasser les envahisseurs à l'aide de quelques Cosaques.

Mais ils ne purent y réussir qu'en frappant les femmes qui paraissaient furieuses, et dont il fallut emporter quelques-unes en les traînant par terre.

Pendant que ceci se passait derrière la maison, une foule considérable s'était émeutée de l'autre côté devant l'entrée principale, en poussant de grands cris et en faisant des efforts pour pénétrer dans la cour. La garde d'honneur qui était composée de soldats de la Drogine, eut quelque peine à repousser et à maintenir ces émeutiers.

M. le Gouverneur-Général ne tarda pas à s'apercevoir qu'il se passait quelque chose d'extraordinaire. Il sortit avec ses Aides-de-camp, et il réussit à intimider la foule qui se pressait aux abords de la maison. Cependant le jardin avait été complétement vidé, et des sentinelles y avaient été placées devant tous les endroits par lesquels on pouvait y pénétrer. Bientôt un nouveau peloton de la Drogine se présenta et l'on n'entendit plus aucun bruit inquiétant. La foule toutefois n'avait pas abandonné les abords de la maison, et nous avons appris le lendemain matin que ce soir-là environ quatre or cinq cents femmes s'étaient réunies autour du conak, où se trouve la Caisse,

pour empêcher M. Schmidt d'y pénétrer. Ces femmes sont restées jusqu'à la fin de l'émeute jour et nuit à leur poste, où elles avaient établi tout un bivouac.

Il était trop tard pour rien entreprendre dans cette soirée, d'autant plus qu'on n'avait pour disperser la foule qu'une trentaine d'hommes d'une compagnie d'infanterie Russe, les Cosaques, et les gendarmes de l'escorte, et la Drogine, dont on ne connaissait pas encore les dispositions. Le Général résolut d'attendre jusqu'au lendemain avant de rien décider. Mais il fit appeler le Président de la Société de Gymnastique, et lui dit qu'il comptait sur lui et ses hommes pour maintenir l'ordre dans la ville. "C'est vous," lui dit-il, "qui me garderez; je vous prie de m'envoyer une escouade d'une trentaine d'hommes qui me fourniront des fonctionnaires." Le chef de gymnastes paraissait surpris et très-embarrassé; il babilla quelques mots, signifiant qu'il lui serait bien difficile de surveiller tous ses hommes, parmi lesquels il y avait beaucoup de cerveaux brûlés; mais il finit toutefois par promettre que pas un des hommes enrôlés dans la société ne se rendraient complice du désordre. Il est probable, Messieurs, que l'heureuse idée du Général Stolipine de s'adresser au point d'honneur des gymnastes a beaucoup contribué à empêcher les scènes de désordre dont nous avons été témoins de dégénérer en scènes de violences absolues.

Après le dîner, M. Schmidt, sans nous prévenir, M. le Gouverneur-Général et moi, sortit avec M. Dorschprunt Tilitza, Brigadier, Commandant les Drogines de Slivno et des villes voisines.

Les deux Messieurs firent en ville une promenade assez émouvante, dont M. Schmidt lui-même va, si vous le permettez, vous raconter les incidents.

M. Schmidt, Directeur-Général des Finances, prend la parole en ces termes:—

"Dimanche, vers 6 heures et demie du soir, M. le Colonel Dorschprunt Tilitza, commandant la brigade de la milice de Slivno, m'invita à faire avec lui une promenade par la ville. Il espérait que la population se tranquilliserait si elle voyait que je n'étais ni Turc, ni Anglais. Nous essayâmes d'abord de traverser la foule qui occupait la rue devant la maison. Le Colonel Kessiakoff, qui se trouvait là, me présenta au peuple, et demanda si l'on croyait encore que j'étais un Turc? Une voix répondit, 'Oui, puisqu'il parle le Turc.' Sur quoi le Brigadier dit que le Colonel Kessiakoff, comme presque tous les Bulgares, savait aussi le Turc. Une autre voix dans la foule reprit alors, 'S'il n'est pas Turc, il est du moins Anglais.' M. Kessiakoff donne sa parole d'honneur que j'étais aussi peu Anglais que Turc; mais la foule, au lieu de se calmer, devint plus tumultueuse, et le Colonel Tilitza me reconduisait à la maison entre une double haie de soldats qui empêcha la foule de me suivre. Prenant ensuite une petite rue latérale non occupée par la foule, nous pûmes entrer dans la ville sans être aperçus. Nous nous dirigeâmes vers la caserne de la milice, qui est établie dans une dépendance de la grande fabrique de drap. Le Colonel Tilitza demanda aux quelques individus Grecs que nous rencontrâmes dans les rues, s'ils avaient déjà vu M. Schmidt. Sur leur réponse négative, il leur dit, 'Eh bien, le voici.' On refusa d'abord de le croire. Lorsque je répétai son assertion, et lorsque je demandai pourquoi on faisait une démonstration contre moi, on me dit que l'on ne voulait pas le retour des Turcs; on me raconta les malheurs arrivés aux habitants de Slivno pendant le dernier temps du régime passé, et on me demanda où j'étais à cette époque, et pourquoi je n'étais pas venu alors dans ce pays. Cette même question étrange m'a été faite chaque fois que je me suis présenté à la foule.

"Après avoir visité la caserne, nous allâmes chez le Procureur, un officier Russe, qui, lui aussi, refusa d'abord de croire à mon identité. Il me dit qu'après avoir entendu tout ce que la foule disait de moi, il s'attendait à voir un véritable monstre. Cet officier nous accompagna ensuite pour me présenter à quelques Notables Bulgares.

"Nous rencontrâmes sur la route plusieurs individus auxquels le Colonel me présenta, et nous entrâmes dans la maison du Président de la Cour d'Appel, que j'avais déjà vu parmi la députation qui était venue saluer le Gouverneur-Général.

"La nouvelle de ma présence dans cette maison se répandit vite, et le nombre des personnes qui stationnaient devant la maison augmenta rapidement. On demandait à me voir, et le Colonel fit entrer une députation de trois personnes, avec lesquelles je causai quelque temps.

"Cette députation me dit que l'on désirait me remettre une lettre exprimant les vœux de la population. Après avoir vainement attendu cette lettre pendant un quart d'heure, le Colonel me pria de partir, parce qu'il craignait que la foule qui augmentait toujours devant la maison ne devint tumultueuse. Nous quittâmes la maison, et le Colonel pria la foule de ne pas nous suivre. On ne tint pas compte de cette prière. Dans les rues étroites où nous nous engagions, le Procureur, assisté d'un soldat qui

était avec le Colonel Tilitza, essaya plusieurs fois de retenir la foule, en la haranguant pour nous assurer un libre passage. Mais chaque fois la foule se jetait en avant en criant hourrah. De moment en moment la foule devenait plus excitée; quelques individus frappaient aux portes des maisons pour appeler les habitants à ma poursuite. Le Colonel finit par s'inquiéter, et comme nous arrivâmes bientôt devant le bureau du 4e Corps d'Armée, où il y avait un poste Russe, il m'y fit entrer et garder la porte par les soldats armés. Il tâchait de calmer la foule, et lui disait qu'il enverrait chercher une compagnie de soldats si on ne promettait pas de me laisser retourner tranquillement à la maison du Gouverneur.

"On promit alors au Colonel de ne pas empêcher notre retour à la maison; en effet, la foule qui nous accompagnait se tenait tranquille.

"Dès que nous approchâmes de la maison du Gouverneur, l'inquiétude du Colonel disparut, et nous nous arrêtâmes pour causer avec les hommes qui nous suivaient. Ces hommes répétaient toujours les mêmes plaintes contre les abus et les émeutes commises par les derniers fonctionnaires Ottomans. Ils m'assurèrent en outre qu'il ne m'en voulaient pas à moi, et que je n'avais rien à craindre pour ma personne, mais qu'ils voulaient protester contre ce qu'ils considéraient comme le premier pas fait pour rétablir ici l'autorité des Pachas.

"Il était 9 heures et demie quand je rentrai chez M. le Gouverneur."

M. de Coutouly reprend la parole comme suit:—

Quelques instants après la rentrée de M. Schmidt, M. le Colonel Kessiakoff nous conduisit avec une escorte de quelques gendarmes dans la maison du Docteur Miscoritch où des lits avaient été préparés pour nous, et qui était gardé par un peloton de vingt-six fantassins de la Drogine.

Le lendemain matin, Dimanche, nous nous aperçûmes vers 9 heures et demie qu'une foule considérable s'était amassée autour de la maison. Tous les arbres du voisinage étaient chargés de gamins qui attendaient les événements. A 10 heures moins un quart la foule essaya de percer l'entrée de la Cour. La sentinelle fut culbutée, et quelques hommes réussirent à passer la porte. Aussitôt les miliciens coururent à leurs fusils qui étaient groupés en faisceaux, et se jetèrent sur les envahisseurs qu'ils repoussèrent à grands coups de crosse. Ils prirent position dans la rue devant la porte, mais ils furent aussitôt assaillis par une grêle de pierres. Deux de ces braves garçons furent blessés au visage, et forcés de rentrer pour se faire soigner par le docteur. D'autres furent vilement frappés sur la poitrine, à la nuque, &c., mais pas un ne perdit la tête ni ne fit usage de la baïonnette. Je ne sais pas s'il y avait plusieurs fusils dans la foule; pour ma part, je n'en ai vu qu'un seul dans les mains d'un homme à moustache grise qui coucha en joue un de nos jeunes défenseurs, mais qui fut aussitôt désarmé par les gens qui se trouvaient à côté de lui. Sur l'ordre de l'officier commandant le peloton, des miliciens chargèrent leurs fusils, et cela suffit pour mettre la foule en fuite; quelques instants plus tard une compagnie tout entière de la Drogine arrivait à la resource et occupait les abords de la maison.

Elle avait été envoyée par le Colonel Kessiakoff, qui ne tarda pas à se présenter chez nous avec le Vice-Gouverneur et le Brigadier Tilitza. Ces messieurs haranguèrent la foule, et le Colonel Kessiakoff me pria de sortir avec lui. "Puisque la foule," me dit-il, "s'est tout à coup prise d'affection pour le Délégué Français, profitez-en pour lui parler et la rassurer sur le compte de M. Schmidt." Aussitôt que le Colonel m'eut présenté à la foule, maintenue à une certaine distance de la maison par une double haie de miliciens, je fus salué par une explosion de hourrahs et de cris: "Vive la France." Quelques jeunes gens criaient, en Français: "Vive la République Française." On me pria de dire quelques mots. Entouré comme je l'étais par la foule, qui se pressait autour de nous, je ne pus pas me dispenser de parler. Je leur dis que je les remerciais des marques de sympathie qu'ils voulaient bien me donner; et j'ajoutais qu'ils ne se trompaient pas en supposant que M. le Commissaire de France, dont j'étais l'adjoint, écrivait au Gouvernement dans un sens favorable à la population de ce pays, mais qu'il ne pouvait pas faire autre chose.

Comme le Colonel Kessiakoff, qui ne comprend pas parfaitement le Français, avait, à ce que me dit notre interprète, qui nous avait suivi, donné une couleur un peu trop accentuée à la traduction de mon petit discours très-réservé, je priai d'abord M. Skyszowsky, puis un jeune homme du pays, qui m'avait adressé la parole en Français, de le traduire littéralement, afin qu'on ne pût pas m'accuser de tromper la foule et flatter ses passions.

Après quoi, je m'efforçais d'ajouter quelques mots pour expliquer ma situation vis-à-vis de M. Schmidt, fonctionnaire au service d'une Commission dont je faisais partie; mais il me fut impossible de me faire entendre au milieu des hourrahs.

Peu de temps après cet incident M. le Vice-Gouverneur nous proposa de nous rendre avec lui dans la maison du Gouverneur, où nous rencontrerions le Général Stolipine, qui était allé à l'église. Il se chargea d'ouvrir la marche, en écartant la foule sur notre passage avec l'aide d'un ou deux gendarmes, M. Schmidt marchant derrière lui au bras du Kessiakoff, lequel lui avait consulté d'accrocher à sa boutonnière sa Croix de Fer Prussienne.

Pour moi, je suivais ces messieurs avec un ou deux officiers qui avaient voulu nous escorter. La compagnie de la Drogine qui avait fait la haie devant la maison fut obligée de nous accompagner pour tenir la foule à distance. Tout ce qu'il y avait d'hommes, de femmes, et d'enfants, dans les environs de la maison du Gouverneur courrait à côté de nous en poussant des cris; mais pas une pierre ne fut lancée. Au moment où nous nous sommes engagés dans une rue étroite aboutissant en face de la maison du Gouverneur, le Colonel donna l'ordre aux miliciens d'empêcher la foule d'y pénétrer avec nous. Cet ordre fut exécuté avec beaucoup de vigueur à coups de crosse. Devant le portail même de la cour, au fond de laquelle se trouve la maison vers laquelle nous nous dirigions, une autre scène de violence eut lieu.

La foule ayant essayé d'enfoncer la double haie de miliciens qui barrait une petite rue transversale, il fallut la charger. Le Vice-Gouverneur, le Colonel Kessiakoff, les Cosaques, et quelques hommes de la Drogine, s'y employèrent sous une grêle de pierres, dont une atteignit à la tête un officier de la milice. Pendant que ceci se passait sur notre droite, la haie de miliciens qui se trouvait à notre gauche, tenait bon contre la foule, qui apostrophait les soldats, et leur adressait de vifs reproches. J'ai vu un jeune homme entr'ouvrir sa veste et sa chemise, et présenter sa poitrine à un soldat, en l'invitant à le frapper avec sa baïonnette. Les miliciens ne discutaient pas; ils se contentaient de repousser les assaillants avec les crosses de leurs fusils.

Pendant ce temps un peloton présentait les armes dans la cour. Tous ces jeunes miliciens avaient l'air de vieux soldats; et je crois devoir vous déclarer à ce propos, Messieurs, que nous avons beaucoup admiré, M. Schmidt et moi, pendant tout notre séjour à Slivna, l'excellente tenue de cette jeune troupe Bulgare, à laquelle ses officiers et ses sous-officiers Russes ont réussi à donner, en si peu de temps, une éducation militaire vraiment bien surprenante.

Dès que le Général Stolipine fut rentré, je lui racontai en détail les scènes dont nous avions été les témoins. Il me dit qu'en dépit de leurs efforts les Notables de la ville et les officiers Russes ne réussiraient probablement pas à faire entendre raison à la foule; que les femmes qui assiégeaient le conak paraissaient résolues à empêcher coûte que coûte le Directeur des Finances de pénétrer dans le bureau de l'Administration Financière; que la sentinelle gardant la Caisse était emprisonnée par la foule dans le bureau même, où les femmes lui apportaient à boire et à manger; enfin, que pour effrayer les soldats dans le cas où on viendrait employer la force, les meneurs de l'émeute avaient soin de réunir autour du conak un nombre assez considérable de femmes enceintes, que l'on se proposait de placer au premier rang dans le cas d'une bagarre.

Le Général Stolipine déclara formellement qu'il était résolu à faire respecter l'autorité à dégager le conak et à prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires pour que M. Schmidt pût exécuter son mandat, mais qu'il préférait patienter afin de laisser à la foule le temps de se lasser, et aux Notables de l'endroit celui de la calmer, et de lui faire comprendre combien la manifestation organisée par des agitateurs imprudents était insensée et préjudiciable aux intérêts mêmes de la population Bulgare. Il ajouta que s'il voulait employer les armes il lui suffirait d'une demi-heure pour rétablir l'ordre, mais qu'il avait l'espoir de le faire sans effusion de sang, et qu'il avait d'ailleurs envoyé par le télégraphe l'ordre à un bataillon d'arriver à Slivno. "Plus nous aurons de troupes," me dit-il, "plus nous avons de chances de disperser la foule sans causer d'irréparables malheurs."

M. le Gouverneur-Général répéta cette déclaration plusieurs fois dans les deux jours qui suivirent, et j'ai à peine besoin de vous dire que nous avons toujours, M. Schmidt et moi, cru devoir répondre à son Excellence à notre nom personnel comme en votre nom, Messieurs, que nous approuvions sa prudence et sa modération.

Le Métropolitain de Slivno, Mgr. Séraphim, vint ce jour-là saluer M. le Général Stolipine, qui me fit l'honneur de me présenter à son Excellence. Quelque temps après cette visite, le Gouverneur-Général sortit pour circuler dans la foule, et tâcher de la calmer.

Il revint avec deux pétitions, dont l'une était adressée à M. Schmidt et l'autre à moi, et qui lui avaient été présentée avec prière de nous les transmettre.

Au sujet de la prétendue pétition remise à M. Schmidt, il est de mon devoir, Messieurs, de vous apprendre que les Notables de Slivno avec lesquels j'ai eu l'honneur de causer, ont blâmé dans les termes les plus sévères le style de ce factum étrange, et m'ont prié de ne tenir aucun compte d'une pièce qui, d'après eux, n'exprime pas les véritables sentiments de quiconque parmi leurs compatriotes est capable de concevoir une idée politique. Plusieurs de ces messieurs m'ont dit et répété que ce morceau avait été rédigé par des fanatiques, ennemis inconscients de leur propre cause. Ils ont ajouté, avec une sincérité dont je ne puis aucunement douter, que pour leur part, s'ils avaient les moyens de s'adresser aux Représentants des Puissances, il ne commettraient par la folie de déclarer qu'ils ne veulent pas se soumettre à la volonté de l'Europe, mais qu'ils se contenteraient de leur demander des garanties contre le retour du régime de terreur dont ils ont si cruellement souffert.

Je crois que, dans les conversations spéciales dont je vous donne en ce moment le sens, il n'était question que d'agitateurs indigènes. Tous les patriotes Bulgares sont, je crois, jusqu'à un certain point responsables des manifestations qui se sont produites contre le mandat conféré à la Commission Européenne, parce qu'ils avaient tous le même idéal, et qu'ils se sont tous amèrement plaints lorsqu'ils ont été forcés de renoncer à la prompte réalisation de cet idéal. Mais si les patriotes indigènes, même les plus modérés, ont leur part de responsabilité dans les événements dont j'ai l'honneur de vous rendre compte, la part la plus lourde me paraît appartenir à un certain nombre d'agitateurs que je ne puis absolument pas considérer comme les véritables guides et chefs naturels de la population Bulgare. Il est pour moi*

Inclosure 2 in No. 158.

Petition.

(Traduction.)

Très-honoré M. Schmidt.

NOUS vous adressons d'abord nos saluts comme hôte de notre ville, et nous prenons en même temps la liberté de vous expliquer le but de la démonstration que vous voyez, depuis hier, se faire devant vous. Elle n'est pas dirigée contre votre personne mais contre la volonté de l'Europe, qui se plut au Congrès de Berlin à partager notre pays en plusieurs morceaux; elle nous laisse ainsi sous l'ancien régime du Gouvernement Ottoman. Nous sommes profondément convaincus que cette volonté, avec les conséquences qu'elle aurait pour nous, sera funeste à notre liberté et à notre bien-être futur. Par cette raison nous ne pouvons pas nous soumettre à cette volonté, et nous avons dès le commencement protesté contre la décision du Congrès de Berlin.

Mais l'Europe, sans faire attention à notre faible voix, envoya à Plovdiv la Commission qui aujourd'hui encore y siége pour élaborer le statut destiné à régler l'administration de ce pays.

Au nom de toutes les villes, nous protestons encore une fois, et nous déclarons que nous ne reconnaissons pas la Commission Européenne, et que nous ferons tous nos efforts pour conserver cette liberté, que Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan Hamid lui-même a sanctionnée par sa signature le 19 Février, 1878.

Comme nous ne reconnaissons pas la Commission Européenne, il nous est aussi impossible de vous reconnaître, et de confier nos comptes et nos finances à vous, fonctionnaire désigné par cette Commission Européenne.

Enfin, notre unique espoir est que l'Europe envoie ses armées, pour terminer dans un instant nos souffrances au lieu de les prolonger pour des siècles.

Slivno, le 4 Mars, 1879.

(La population de Slivno et de son Arrondissement.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 158.

M. Schmidt to M. de Braunschweig.

Philippopoli, le 5 Mars, 1879.

M. le Président,

DANS plusieurs Rapports adressés au Comité des Finances, j'ai signalé à la Commission Européenne les obstacles auxquels se heurte l'Administration Financière,

* The MS. given to the Printer ends abruptly in this manner.

et j'ai cru nécessaire de mettre ma responsabilité à couvert par une déclaration formelle dans mon Rapport du $\frac{24 \text{ Janvier}}{5 \text{ Février}}$, 1879.

Les entraves proviennent pour la plus grande partie de l'attitude des autorités Russes qui, d'une part, méconnaissent les droits donnés à la Commission Européenne en matière des finances, droits définis par la résolution du $\frac{5}{17}$ Octobre, 1878; et qui, d'autre part, ne peuvent pas ou ne veulent pas faire respecter par la population l'autorité de la Commission Européenne.

Les dernières semaines, au lieu d'améliorer l'état de choses dont la Commission a eu si souvent à se plaindre, ont au contraire ajouté aux griefs précédents.

Vous connaissez les derniers événements de Hasskeui, Yamboli, et Slivno; ils parlent assez haut.

Aujourd'hui même, j'ai reçu un Rapport du Directeur des Contributions Indirectes de Philippopoli, qui me dit que deux surveillants envoyés dans le Canton d'Afché-Holma ont été expulsés par la population. Ces employés étaient munis de lettres de la Direction Générale et du Chef d'Arrondissement de Philippopoli. Mais les habitants assurés de l'impunité par les précédents de Yéni-Zaghra, Hasskeui, Tchirpan, Abrachlari, et Yamboli, ou du moins certains de n'être condamnés qu'à des peines insignifiantes, tout-à-fait hors de proportion avec la gravité des fautes préfèrent, naturellement, ne pas recevoir les employés des finances, afin de se soustraire à toute contribution. Pourtant le produit des impôts serait principalement affecté au paiement des frais d'occupation de l'armée Russe, payables par la province.

Certains Chefs d'Arrondissement refusent de se conformer aux prescriptions de la Direction Générale des Finances pour le contrôle de leurs dépenses, prescriptions qui ont été communiquées par moi à son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général sans provoquer de sa part une replique quelconque.

Les autorités civiles continuent à donner des ordres aux caissiers et à effectuer elles-mêmes des dépenses sur les revenus de pays, sans consulter la Direction Générale des Finances; et le Gouverneur-Général lui-même a autorisé certaines de ces dépenses.

Le Gouverneur de Philippopoli a récemment donné l'ordre à nos caissiers de lui délivrer les archives jusqu'au 31 Décembre, 1878 (pièces justificatives de la Caisse, &c.), comme si ces fonctionnaires étaient placés sous son autorité.

La vraie Administration Financière reste toujours, malgré mes réclamations réitérées, entre les mains des Conseils d'Arrondissement, qui dépendent uniquement des Gouverneurs; or vous savez combien il est difficile d'obtenir de ces Conseils les renseignements nécessaires, et quelles pertes de temps sont résultées pour nous de leur négligence ou de leur mauvais vouloir.

Les Municipalités auxquelles l'autorité Russe impose des dépenses dépassant leurs forces, empiètent sur les revenus de l'Etat, et il n'a pas été possible jusqu'à présent de défendre les intérêts du fisc.

La population Bulgare est profondément agitée et s'oppose aux fonctionnaires de la Commission Européenne. L'autorité Russe est incapable de protéger ces employés et de leur assurer le libre exercice de leurs fonctions.

L'autorité civile n'a fait rien de sérieux contre les promoteurs des séditions de Yéni-Zagra, Hasskeui, Tchirpan, et Abrachlari; quant aux mesures que M. le Gouverneur-Général a déclaré vouloir ordonner pour châtier les coupables de Yamboli et de Slivno, M. de Coutouly vous les fait connaître. A vous de juger si elles sont proportionnées à la gravité des désordres, et de nature à prévenir le retour d'émeutes semblables, étant donnée la surexcitation extraordinaire d'une population armée par l'autorité Russe pour s'opposer dans un avenir prochain, aux fonctionnaires du Sultan, et qui assimile à ces fonctionnaires les employés de la Commission Européenne.

L'indulgence de l'autorité Russe à l'égard des démonstrations et de la résistance violente aux fonctionnaires de la Commission Européenne, doit nécessairement encourager la population qui, mal éclairée, croit accomplir une œuvre patriotique, et qui compte trouver grâce devant les autorités Russes.

Rien n'a été fait par l'autorité civile pour éclaircir la population sur le véritable caractère de l'Administration Financière. Malgré nos réclamations réitérées la résolution du $\frac{5}{17}$ Octobre, qui est une loi fondamentale pour le Gouvernement provisoire de cette province, n'a jamais été publiée par le "Maritza," journal qui sert à toutes les communications officielles. Ainsi le Métropolitain Bulgare de Slivno pouvait croire que je représentais l'autorité du Sultan, et le Colonel Russe Commandant de Yamboli, pouvait me désigner comme un Ministre Turc, dans son billet par lequel il réquisitionnait la troupe.

Au mois de Janvier, la Commission Européenne avait décidé de venir en aide aux cultivateurs qui avaient souffert par les événements de la guerre, et elle avait ordonné

une enquête pour connaître les sommes jugées nécessaires par les communes. Je fis imprimer pour cette enquête des feuilles que je remis à M. le Gouverneur-Général avec prière de les distribuer aux Conseils d'Arrondissement, qui devaient en faire parvenir un exemplaire à chaque commune.

Cette manifestation des intentions bienveillantes de la Commission Européenne aurait peut-être contribué à éclairer la population sur le but de l'Administration Financière, et à rendre le peuple moins accessible aux accusations répandues par les agitateurs contre la Commission.

Mais les Conseils d'Arrondissement n'ont jamais reçu les imprimés remis au Gouverneur-Général, ni l'ordre de procéder à l'enquête décrétée par la Commission Européenne.

La province a des intérêts très-considérables à Achiolou et à Bourgas; dans la première ville à cause des marais salants, dans la seconde à cause de la douane du seul port maritime de la province. Malgré toutes mes démarches, je n'ai pas encore pu obtenir un rapport ou un compte-rendu quelconque de la douane de Bourgas.

La visite de ces deux villes était un des principaux objets de ma tournée.

A Slivno, son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général a déclaré officiellement à M. de Coutouly, Rapporteur du Comité des Finances, qu'il était impossible que je continuasse mon voyage pour inspecter les services financiers dans les chefs-lieux du département de Slivno.

Peut-être son Excellence me fera-t-elle bientôt la même déclaration pour mon séjour à Philippopoli.

Dans ces circonstances l'Administration des Finances sous l'autorité de la Commission Européenne me paraît une impossibilité absolue.

Jusqu'à présent les démonstrations de la population Bulgare n'ont pas été dirigées contre ma personne, mais uniquement contre la Commission Européenne et ses fonctionnaires. Cela est constaté par les deux adresses qui m'ont été remises à Yamboli et à Slivno, et par l'aveu fait à Slivno par son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général lui-même.

Pourtant, dans sa lettre du $\frac{27 \text{ Février}}{11 \text{ Mars}}$ courant, son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général a essayé de rejeter la responsabilité des désordres arrivés à Hasskeui, Yamboli, et Slivno sur ma personne, en portant atteinte à la considération du personnel de notre Administration. Ces accusations ont trouvé immédiatement un écho dans le No. —— du "Maritza," publié le même jour.

Ce mot d'ordre une fois donné retentira nécessairement bientôt dans toute la province et portera une nouvelle atteinte au prestige de la Commission Européenne.

Pour ces considérations je me vois obligé de rendre à la Commission Européenne le mandat qu'elle m'a fait l'honneur de me confier, et je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien annoncer à MM. les Commissaires ma démission comme Directeur-Général des Finances de la Roumélie Orientale.

Je regrette qu'une partie de la population de ce pays, mal éclairée sur le caractère de mon mandat et aveuglée par des passions politiques, se soit laissée entraîner à prendre une attitude qui rend impossible l'exécution de ce mandat. Mon but unique était de servir ce pays et de me rendre utile en organisant son Administration Financière laquelle, par suite des circonstances, souffre de beaucoup d'abus et d'un grand nombre de fautes qui ne sont un mystère pour personne. Je regrette profondément d'avoir été empêché d'atteindre mon but, d'accomplir ma tâche, et j'ose espérer que la Commission Européenne me disculpera.

Je vous prie, M. le Président, d'exprimer encore une fois ma vive reconnaissance à MM. les Commissaires qui m'ont honoré en me confiant le poste de Directeur-Général des Finances; je garderai précieusement le souvenir de toutes les marques de sympathie et de bienveillance dont j'ai été l'objet de leur part pendant l'exercice de mes fonctions.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. SCHMIDT.

No. 159.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 134.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, March* 23, 1879.

THERE seems to be a renewal of the persecution by Bulgarians of Turks.

Inclosed is a Petition respecting the Turkish woman named Fatma, of cruelties practised on her by Bulgarians, as stated in my despatch No. 122 of the 16th instant.

I also transmit to your Lordship a Memorandum on another case of the same kind given me by the Turkish Commissioners.

From what I hear, acts of a similar character are committed in other parts of the province, and are not checked in any way by the Russian authorities.

On the contrary, the latter are advising the Turks to leave the country, alarming them by predictions of what will happen to them later.

During the recent tour of General Stolipine with MM. de Coutouly and Schmidt, his Excellency made some inflammatory speeches against the Turks: "Do you not wish to fight the Turks," he asked, "side by side with Russia?"

On the crowd shouting in the affirmative, he went on to say that, unless they conformed to his wish by receiving M. Schmidt, they would not be worthy to fight with Russia against their hereditary enemies and the enemies of the Czar.

M. de Coutouly has promised to let me take later a copy of a Report he is preparing on matters which came before his notice, unconnected with his financial mission.

The policy of the Russian authorities is plain, viz., to substitute an entirely Bulgarian population for that already existing in those portions of the province where the communities have been wholly or partly Turkish.

I have the honour to inclose a list of names furnished me by Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert of the Bulgarians most actively engaged in promoting future disturbances.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 159.

Petition.

Son Excellence le Président de la Commission Européenne de la Roumélie Orientale.

PERMETTEZ aux soussignés habitants Musulmans du village Aidin, commune de Coyoun-Tépé, d'attirer la bienveillante attention sur les faits dont la relation suit:—

Dans la nuit de Samedi du $\frac{14}{26}$ Février plusieurs Bulgares, dont quelques-uns habillés en volontaires, enfoncèrent la porte de la maison Fatma, fille de Hassan, habitants de notre village.

Ils y pénétrèrent, et après avoir usé de menaces pour amener Fatma à déclarer le lieu où elle avait caché son argent, ils les firent suivre d'actes féroces et barbares.

Ils firent rougir au feu une pelle en fer qu'ils trouvèrent à leur portée, et la traînèrent sur les seins de la malheureuse femme; ils ne s'en contentèrent pas, et, avec une cimeterre, ils la battirent à mort. Fatma ne pouvant plus douter du danger que courait sa vie, leur indiqua le bain où elle avait enfoui tout ce qui constituait son modique trésor: 80 roubiés, 5 mahmoudiés, et 2 girmiliks.

Mais ils ne s'en suffisèrent pas; et ils commençaient déjà à reprendre les mêmes moyens qui leur avaient si bien réussi, lorsque Fatma s'évanouit. La croyant morte, ils se ruèrent hors de la maison, et dans leur précipitation ils marchèrent sur la toute petite fille de Fatma ayant six mois.

Ce n'est pas sur elle seulement qu'ils ont consommé les actes dont il vient d'être parlé. Ils avaient battu à sang sa fille de 4 ans; ils avaient menacé de mort, en le mettant à genoux devant eux, son fils âgé de 14 ans.

Quelques-uns des Musulmans du même village se rendaient dernièrement à Pechtéré, lorsque des Bulgares qu'ils rencontrèrent sur leur chemin les pillèrent de leur argent et de leurs chevaux.

Quatre femmes Musulmanes du même village ont été violées par des Bulgares dont l'une est morte dix jours plus tard.

Des Bulgares assassinèrent la nommée Fatma Chak, du même village, ainsi que son fils.

De tels actes sont à l'encontre des assurances qui nous ont été toujours données, d'assurer notre existence. Nous les signalons à l'attention éclairée de votre Excellence pour qu'elle veuille bien prendre telles mesures que comportent les faits ci-dessus rapportés.

Dans cette attente nous avons l'honneur, &c.

(Signé) ALI-OGLOU HASSAN.
MOUSSA-OGLOU ADEM.
MUSTAPHA SALIB.
AARIF.
NOUSSOULS.

Philippopoli, le 28 *Février*, 1879.

Inclosure 2 in No. 159.

Memorandum.

DANS la nuit de Samedi dernier des Bulgares au nombre de dix à quinze, habillés en miliciens, se sont introduits par force dans la maison du nommé Mustafa-Tchirak-oglou dans le but d'escroquer de l'argent à ce dernier; malgré toutes les menaces dont ils usèrent, n'étant pas parvenu à s'en faire remettre par la raison qu'il n'en possédait point, ils se sont rendus en corps chez le frère du dit Mustafa, le nommé Suléiman. Ils n'ont pas reculé devant les moyens les plus extrêmes et les plus barbares pour lui faire indiquer le lieu où il conservait son argent; ils ont rougi au feu un tripied dont ils couronnèrent la tête et une chaîne dont ils enroulèrent le cou de la femme nommée Hafisa, du dit Suleiman.

C'est par ces moyens qu'ils ont réussi à se faire remettre la somme de 3,000 piastres en or. Hafiza a été amenée en voiture à Karchi-Yaka, où elle se trouve actuellement, et pour l'affaire duquel une requête a été présentée au Gouverneur de Philippopoli.

Inclosure 3 in No. 159.

Memorandum.

MDME. KYSSYROFF and Mdme. Mihalaki Miataloff are collecting money in Philippopolis for a national revolutionary banner, which is to cost £ T. 100.

Names of Eagle Committee at Philippopolis:—
President.—Théodore Iscroff.
Vice-President.—Joachin Grouëff.
Members.—1. Théodore Vlassakoff; 2. Parloff; 3. Mihalaki Tchshhadji; 4. Christaki, nephew of Archbishop Panaretos; 5. Stoïloff.
Secretary and Treasurer.—Const. Hadji Kalschoff.

Branch Committee at Karchi-Jaka:—
President.—John Stephanoff Gueshoff.
Vice-President.—Pope Stoïco.
Members.—1. Demetri Yughrali; 2. Demetri Stambolieff; 3. Iovantcho Fehtchi; 4. Mantcheff, bookseller; 5. Elia Kaleff.
Secretary and Treasurer.—John D. Gueshoff.

Agents for the villages:—
1. Alexander Grouëff; 2. Stoyan Shope.
March 21, 1879.

No. 160.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 7.*)

(No. 135.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, March 23, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the 44th Protocol.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 160.

Protocole No. 44.—Séance du $\frac{5}{17}$ *Février* 1879 (5 *Rébi-ul-Ewel*, 1296), *à la Maison de la Commission Européenne à Philippopoli.*

Présidence de M. DE BRAUNSCHWEIG.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring,
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schepelew,
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Le Protocole de la dernière séance, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff demande si le Comité des Finances a reçu quelques renseignements sur la douane de Bourgas.

M. de Coutouly répond que des renseignements susceptibles d'intéresser le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne se trouvent à ce sujet dans les états communiqués par le Gouverneur de Slivno. Le Comité des Finances s'occupe de la traduction de ces documents, qui seront prochainement soumis à la Commission.

L'ordre du jour appelle la continuation de la discussion sur le Chapitre VI : "des Subdivisions de la Province et de leur administration."

Le Président relit l'Article 16 :—

"*Représentation Départementale.*

"Art. 16. Chaque département a un Conseil Général, qui élit dans son sein une Commission Départementale.

"Ce Conseil se compose :

"1. De membres de droit, savoir : le Mufti en fonctions au chef-lieu du département, les Chefs spirituels des communautés religieuses reconnues qui y ont des églises ou des synagogues, le Président du Tribunal Civil du département.

"2. De membres électifs en nombre quintuple des cantons qui comprend le département.

"3. De membres désignés par le Gouverneur-Général en nombre égal à celui des dits cantons.

"Les fonctions de Conseiller-Général sont gratuites."

Le Prince Tzeretelew prend la parole en ces termes :—

"La composition des Conseils Généraux telle qu'est projetée par le Baron de Ring est de nature à soulever de notre part des objections sérieuses.

"Lors de la discussion sur l'Assemblée Provinciale nous avons combattu le système qui tendrait à introduire au sein de cette Assemblée trois catégories de Représentants : des membres élus, des membres nommés, et des membres de droit. Il nous semble à plus forte raison difficile d'admettre une disposition analogue pour ce qui touche les Conseils Généraux. S'il était, en effet, possible de dire, comme l'on fait plusieurs de nos collègues, que l'absence de deux Chambres distinctes et l'intérêt politique des races qui se trouvent en minorité nécessitaient la création d'un élément modéré et pondérateur dans l'Assemblée Provinciale, on aurait quelque peine à motiver le système que l'on veut appliquer aujourd'hui aux Conseils Généraux. Ces derniers ne seront appelées à jouer aucun rôle politique, et ne s'occuperont que de questions d'ordre économique. La représentation des minorités est pleinement garantie par le système d'élections visé par l'Article 21 du Projet, et que nous sommes prêts à admettre. En faisant entrer dans les Conseils Généraux les Chefs des différents clergés, alors que les communautés religieuses qu'ils sont censés représenter n'ont pas d'intérêts économiques distincts de ceux de la population entière, nous laisserons, dans le plus grand nombre des départements, la représentation populaire en minorité. Ainsi à Philippopoli, où toutes les communautés religieuses sont représentées, douze membres du Conseil Général, appartenant à la majorité de la population, se trouveraient, d'après le Projet du Baron de Ring, en présence d'un groupe de quatorze membres, composé de trois représentants élus par la minorité, de trois membres désignés par le Gouverneur-Général, et de huit membres de droit.

"Pour ce qui est spécialement des membres désignés par le Gouverneur-Général, je ferai observer de plus que le Projet qui nous est soumis ne stipule pas qu'ils devront être pris parmi les habitants du département même des intérêts duquel ils devront s'occuper."

Le Baron de Ring : "J'ai déjà eu l'occasion d'exposer les raisons pour lesquelles j'ai tenu à constituer les Conseils Généraux sur le même modèle que l'Assemblée Provinciale.

"Les intérêts économiques des minorités demandent à être sauvegardés non moins que leurs intérêts politiques. J'admets volontiers la justesse de quelques-uns des arguments du Prince Tzeretelew, et reconnais qu'il serait juste d'augmenter le nombre des Conseillers-Généraux élus dans les départements où la population est fractionnée en un grand nombre de communautés religieuses, et où, par conséquent, la catégorie des Chefs de communauté tiendrait une trop grande place si mon Projet était adopté sans modification. Je serais même disposé, pour ma part, à renoncer complétement aux membres de droit. Par contre, je considère comme tout-à-fait indispensable la nomination d'un certain nombre de membres par le Gouverneur-Général. En effet, le système d'élection visé par l'Article 21 de mon Projet, et auquel a fait allusion le Prince Tzeretelew, ne peut sauvegarder que les intérêts d'une minorité égale, au moins, à la moitié de la majorité ; or, dans la plupart des départements, les races appartenant à la minorité ne forment pas plus du quart de la population entière.

"D'autre part, ce système ne peut assurer d'une manière absolue la représentation des minorités que s'il y a seulement deux parties en présence, tandis que trois nationalités se partagent ce pays. La nomination de quelques membres des Conseils Généraux par le Gouverneur-Général est donc destinée à assurer, au sein de ces Conseils des représentants aux minorités les plus faibles ainsi qu'aux éléments riches et lettrés.

"Je suis, d'ailleurs, tout-à-fait disposé à admettre," dit en terminant le Baron de Ring, "que les membres nommés ne puissent être pris que parmi les habitants du département."

Le Colonel Schepelew dit que les Commissaires de Russie sont prêts à accepter la nomination de certains membres par le Gouverneur-Général si les membres de droit sont supprimés, et si, d'autre part, il est établis dans l'Article suivant que ces membres seront pris parmi les personnes domiciliées dans le département. Il formule en conséquence l'amendement suivant aux deux premiers alinéas de l'Article 16 :—

Art. 16. Chaque département a un Conseil Général, qui élit dans son sein une Commission Départementale.

Ce Conseil se compose :

1. De membres électifs en nombre quintuple des cantons que comprend le département.

2. De membres désignés par le Gouverneur-Général en nombre égal à celui des dits cantons.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff fait remarquer que puisque les Commissaires d'une Puissance qui a fait tant de sacrifices pour la cause des Chrétiens de l'Orient mettent de côté les représentants des communautés religieuses, il accepte l'amendement proposé. Il voudrait savoir pourtant si les Commissaires de Russie donnent leur adhésion à l'Article 21 établissant le système des élections pour les Conseils Généraux.

Les Commissaires de Russie répondent affirmativement.

M. de Kallay a des objections contre l'amendement des Commissaires de Russie. A son point de vue l'important n'est pas que les Conseils Généraux soient "électifs," mais qu'ils soient "représentatifs;" il voudrait voir en conséquence justement représentées dans ces Conseils toutes les classes de la société. Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie reconnaît d'ailleurs que les Délégués Ottomans sont les plus compétents dans cette question, qui touche de près aux intérêts de leur Gouvernement, et déclare qu'il ne fera pas d'opposition à l'amendement que l'on discute, s'il est accepté par eux.

Abro Effendi : "Les membres de droit exerceront une salutaire influence dans les Conseils Généraux. D'abord ils sauvegarderont les droits des minorités; ensuite ils inspireront à la population de la confiance dans l'autorité. On sait quel rôle considérable le clergé joue dans ce pays; pour que ce rôle soit bienfaisant, il faudrait que le clergé fût en rapport avec le Gouvernement, et il le sera quand ses membres feront partie des Conseils."

Son Excellence Assim Pacha ajoute que les membres de droit sont nécessaires non pas aux Musulmans, dont le nombre est assez considérable dans la province, mais aux communautés religieuses qui n'ont pas la chance d'avoir des membres élus.

Le Président met aux voix l'amendement des Commissaires de Russie.

Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, de France, de la Grande Bretagne et d'Italie l'acceptent.

Les Délégués d'Autriche-Hongrie et de Turquie le rejettent, au contraire.

L'amendement n'est pas adopté.

Le Président met aux voix le texte primitif des deux premiers alinéas de l'Article 16.

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne réserve son vote jusqu'à ce qu'un accord se produise entre les autres Délégués.

Les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de la Grande Bretagne, et d'Italie acceptent.

Les Commissaires de Russie votent contre.

En conséquence les deux premiers alinéas de l'Article 16 restent ouverts.

Le Président met aux voix le dernier alinéa de l'Article 16 :—

"Les fonctions de Conseiller-Général sont gratuites."

La Commission accepte.

Le Président relit l'Article 17 :—

"Art. 17. Pour être électeur départemental ou éligible au Conseil Général, il faut remplir les conditions requises pour prendre part aux élections provinciales ou pour être nommé Membre de l'Assemblée Provinciale.

"Le Gouverneur-Général est astreint à prendre les Conseillers-Généraux qu'il a pouvoir de désigner dans les mêmes catégories de personnes que les membres qu'il a le droit d'envoyer à l'Assemblée Provinciale."

La Commission décide d'ajouter à cet Article une dernière phrase ainsi conçue :—

"Il doit les choisir parmi les personnes domiciliés dans le Département."

Les Commissaires de Russie accepteront l'Article 17 dans sa nouvelle forme, s'il est admis qu'il n'y aura pas de membres de droit dans les Conseils Généraux.

Les Commissaires d'Allemagne vote pour l'Article 17 avec l'addition malgré la réserve qu'il a fait au sujet de l'Article 16, car dans tous les cas il est acquis qu'il y aura dans les Conseils-Généraux des membres nommés par le Gouverneur-Général.

Les autres Commissaires votent pour le dit Article.

L'Article 17 reste ouvert.

Le Président relit l'Article 18 :—

"Art. 18. Pour les élections au Conseil Général les listes électorales sont dressées de la même manière que pour les élections à l'Assemblée Provinciale.

"Les pouvoirs des Conseillers-Généraux électifs sont vérifiés de la même manière que ceux des députés à l'Assemblée Provinciale.

"Le bureau du Conseil-Général est formé suivant les mêmes règles que celui de l'Assemblée Provinciale."

La Commission adopte cet Article, le dernier alinéa étant modifié comme suit :—

Le Conseil Général élit son Président, et forme son bureau, suivant les règles en vigueur pour l'Assemblée Provinciale.

Le Président relit et met aux voix les Articles 19 et 20 :—

"Art. 19. Le Conseil Général fait son règlement intérieur. Le Préfet et ses Délégués ont entrée au Conseil; ils doivent être entendus sur leur demande. Les séances sont publiques, à moins que trois membres ne demandent le huis clos. Le Président a seul la police de l'Assemblée. Le Conseil Général doit tenir des procès-verbaux de ces séances.

"Toute délibération prise en dehors de séances prévues ou autorisées par la loi est de nul effet.

"Art. 20. Il n'y a pas incompatibilité entre les fonctions de Conseiller-Général et celles de Député à l'Assemblée Provinciale.

"Une même personne ne peut pas être simultanément membre de deux Conseils Généraux; elle ne peut non plus représenter deux cantons au sein du même Conseil. Si elle est élue par deux ou plusieurs cantons, elle doit opter pour l'un d'eux."

La Commission adopte.

Le Président relit l'Article 21 :—

"Art. 21. Les élections pour les Conseils Généraux ont lieu au scrutin de liste, de telle manière que chaque électeur ne peut inscrire sur son bulletin de vote, à peine de nullité, que les noms de quatre candidats."

La Commission adopte cet Article modifié comme suit :—

"Art. 21. Les élections pour les Conseils Généraux se font par cantons et ont lieu par scrutin de liste de telle manière que chaque électeur ne peut inscrire sur son bulletin de vote, à peine de nullité, que les noms de quatre candidats.

"Sauf cette dérogation, le réglement électoral pour les élections de l'Assemblée Provinciale leur est applicable.

Le Président relit l'Article 22 :—

"Art. 22. Les membres électifs des Conseils Généraux sont élus pour quatre ans et pourront toujours être réélus. Le mandat des membres nommés par le Gouverneur-Général a la même durée et peut aussi être indéfiniment renouvelé. Si un siége devient vacant avant l'époque normale, il doit y être pourvu à temps pour que le nouveau Membre puisse siéger à la plus prochaine Session."

La Commission adopte :—

Le Président relit l'Art. 23 :—

"Art. 23. Le Conseil Général peut être dissous par Décret du Gouverneur-Général délibéré en Conseil Privé.

"En cas de dissolution, il sera procédé, dans les deux mois, à de nouvelles élections."

Le Prince Tzereteleu pense que le droit donné au Gouverneur-Général de dissoudre les Conseils Généraux est contraire aux intérêts du pays. L'influence de l'autorité centrale est, à son avis, suffisamment garantie par le droit d'annuler les délibérations des Conseils Généraux concédé à cette autorité par l'Article 25 du Projet et par la nomination de certains membres. En admettant de plus que le Gouverneur-Général pourra dissoudre le Conseil Général, on risquerait de voir suspendre complétement par de fréquentes dissolutions le fonctionnement régulier de cette institution.

Le Baron de Ring dit qu'il ne voit aucune connexité entre le droit de dissoudre un Conseil Général et celui d'annuler les délibérations pour causes d'incompétence. Une annulation de ce genre n'est pas de nature à remédier à un conflit chronique entre un Conseil Général et le pouvoir exécutif, conflit qui peut rendre nécessaire un nouvel appel à la population. D'autre part, il serait contraire aux intérêts même du pouvoir exécutif d'empêcher le fonctionnement des Conseils Généraux par des dissolutions répétées, car ce fonctionnement est nécessaire à la marche de l'Administration.

Les Commissaires de Russie, tout en considérant la dissolution des Conseils Généraux comme inutile et peut être même nuisible, se déclarent prêts à accepter l'Article 23, s'il est stipulé que la dissolution ne peut être prononcée qu'après une Session ordinaire.

Après un court échange d'idées entre tous les Commissaires, l'Article 23 amendé comme suit est adopté :—

"Art. 23. Le Conseil Général peut être dissous par Décret du Gouverneur-Général délibéré en Conseil Privé.

"Cette dissolution ne peut être décrétée qu'après une Session ordinaire de quinze jours.

"En cas de dissolution, il sera procédé, dans les deux mois, à de nouvelles élections."

Le Président relit et met aux voix les Articles 24 et 25 :—

"Art. 24. Les Conseils Généraux tiennent par année deux Sessions ordinaires. La principale de ces Sessions, dans laquelle sont délibérés les budgets des départements, commence de plein droit le premier Lundi de la seconde quinzaine du mois de Septembre (v. s.). L'ouverture de la seconde Session ordinaire a lieu au jour fixé par le Conseil Général dans la Session du mois de Septembre précédent.

"La durée des Sessions ne peut dépasser quinze jours.

"Les Conseils Généraux peuvent encore être convoqués en Session extraordinaire par Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général.

"Aux Sessions extraordinaires les délibérations des Conseils Généraux ne doivent pas dépasser l'objet qui leur a été assigné par l'Ordonnance de Convocation.

"Art. 25. Les délibérations des Conseils Généraux peuvent être annulées pour motif d'incompétence. L'annulation est prononcée par une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général rendue dans la forme des règlements d'administration publique."

La Commission adopte.

Le Président relit l'Article 26 :—

"Art. 26. Les Conseils Généraux répartissent chaque année, à leur Session de Septembre, les Contributions Directes conformément aux lois. Avant d'effectuer cette répartition, ils statuent sur les demandes délibérées par les [Conseils Municipaux en réduction de contingent.

"Leurs autres attributions sont énumérées dans un Règlement Organique annexé au présent Chapitre, et dont les dispositions pourront être modifiées par une loi provinciale.'

Après un court échange d'idées la Commission adopte cet Article en y ajoutant un dernier alinéa rédigé comme suit :—

Les Conseils Généraux délibèrent en outre sur toutes les questions qui leur sont déférées par la loi.

Le Président relit et met aux voix les Articles 27, 28, 29, 30, et 31 :—

"Art. 27. Tous vœux politiques sont interdits aux Conseils Généraux ; néanmoins ceux-ci peuvent émettre des vœux sur toutes les questions économiques et d'administration générale.

"Art. 28. Les Chefs de service des Administrations publiques dans les départements sont tenus de fournir verbalement ou par écrit tous les renseignements qui leur seraient réclamés par les Conseils Généraux sur les questions intéressant les départements.

"Art. 29. Les départements sont représentés en justice par les Présidents de leurs Conseils Généraux, qui sont en même temps Présidents des Commissions Départementales. Ces Présidents font spontanément ou sur l'invitation des Préfets tous les actes conservatoires et interruptifs de prescription ou de déchéance relativement aux droits des départements.

"Art. 30. Toute action judiciaire contre un département, comme personne civile, doit être intentée contre le Président de son Conseil Général : copie certifiée de tous les actes de procédure doit être, à peine de nullité, remise au Préfet.

"Art. 31. A la Session de Septembre, le Préfet rend compte au Conseil Général par un Rapport détaillé de la situation du département et de l'état des différents

services publics. A l'autre Session ordinaire, il lui présente un Rapport sur les affaires qui doivent lui être soumises pendant cette Session."

La Commission adopte.

Le Président relit et met aux voix l'Article 32 :—

"Art. 32. Le projet du budget du département est préparé par le Préfet, qui est tenu de le communiquer à la Commission Départementale, avec les pièces à l'appui, dix jours au moins avant l'ouverture de la Session de Septembre. Le budget délibéré par le Conseil Général est définitivement réglé par une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général.

"Si un Conseil Général omet d'inscrire au budget un crédit suffisant pour l'acquittement de dépenses mises à sa charge par la loi, telles que celles du casernement de la gendarmerie, de l'entretien des prisons, &c., ou pour l'acquittement de dettes exigibles, ce crédit y est inscrit d'office par le Gouverneur-Général. Aucun autre crédit ne peut être inscrit d'office au budget d'un département."

La Commission adopte cet Article et décide que l'expression : "le budget . . . est définitivement réglé par une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général," ne donne au Préfet le droit ni d'ajouter ni de retrancher une dépense dans le budget départemental, sauf ce qui est stipulé dans le second alinéa de l'Article 32.

Le Président met aux voix les Articles 33 et 34 :—

"Art. 33. Le Conseil Général entend et débat les comptes de l'Administration qui lui sont présentés par le Préfet, concernant les recettes et les dépenses du budget départemental. Ces comptes doivent être communiqués à la Commission départementale, avec les pièces à l'appui, dix jours au moins avant l'ouverture de la Session de Septembre. Les observations du Conseil Général sur les comptes présentés à son examen sont adressées directement par son Président au Gouverneur-Général. Ces comptes, provisoirement arrêtés par le Conseil-Général, le sont définitivement par une Ordonnance rendue en la forme des règlements d'administration publique.

"Art. 34. Les budgets et comptes épurés des départements sont publiés par la voie de la presse."

La Commission adopte.

Le Président relit l'Article 35 :—

"Art. 35. La Commission Départementale se compose de trois membres. Elle est présidée de droit par le Président du Conseil Général. Ses deux autres membres remplissent à tour de rôle les fonctions de Secrétaire.

"Les membres de la Commission Départementale ne reçoivent aucune allocation ou indemnité.

"En cas d'absence ou d'empêchement d'un des membres, il est remplacé provisoirement par le plus âgé des Conseillers-Généraux qui se trouvent au chef-lieu du département. La Commission Départementale est élue pour un an dans la Session du mois de Septembre. Elle se réunit au moins une fois par mois. Les fonctions de membre de la Commission Départementale sont incompatibles avec celles de Député à l'Assemblée Provinciale."

La Commission adopte cet Article en amendant le deuxième alinéa comme suit :—

"Les membres de la Commission Départementale ne reçoivent aucune allocation ou indemnité s'ils sont domiciliés au chef-lieu du département. Dans le cas contraire, le Conseil Général peut leur allouer une indemnité."

Le Président relit et met aux voix les Articles 36, 37, 38, 39, et 40 :—

"Art. 36. Le Préfet ou son représentant assiste aux séances ; il doit être entendu sur sa demande.

"Les Chefs des services administratifs dans le département sont tenus de fournir verbalement ou par écrit tous les renseignements qui leur seraient demandés par la Commission Départementale sur les affaires placées dans ses attributions.

"Un règlement d'administration publique déterminera le fonctionnement des Commissions Départementales.

"Art. 37. La Commission Départementale règle les affaires qui lui sont renvoyées par le Conseil Général dans les limites de la délégation qui lui est faite.

"Elle délibère sur toutes les questions qui lui sont déférées par une loi, et elle

donne son avis au Préfet sur toutes les questions qu'il lui soumet ou sur lesquelles elle croit devoir appeler son attention dans l'intérêt du département.

"Art. 38. La Commission Départementale prend connaissance de la comptabilité du département. Le Préfet est tenu de lui adresser chaque mois l'état détaillé des mandats de paiement qu'il a délivrés le mois précédent, concernant la comptabilité départementale.

"Art. 39. A l'ouverture de chaque Session ordinaire du Conseil Général, la Commission Départementale lui fait un Rapport sur l'ensemble de ses travaux, et lui soumet des propositions. A l'ouverture de la Session de Septembre, elle lui soumet un rapport sur le budget proposé par le Préfet.

"Art. 40. A l'ouverture de la Session de Septembre, la Commission Départementale présente au Conseil Général le relevé de tous les emprunts communaux et de toutes les contributions extraordinaires communales qui ont été votés depuis la Session de Septembre précédente, avec indication de toutes les dettes et impositions extraordinaires qui grèvent chaque commune."

La Commission adopte.

Le Président relit l'Article 41 :—

"Art. 41. La Commission Départementale, après avoir entendu l'avis ou les propositions du Préfet :—

"1. Répartit les subventions diverses portées au budget départemental et dont le Conseil Général ne s'est pas réservé la distribution.

"2. Détermine l'ordre de priorité des travaux à la charge du département, lorsque cet ordre n'a pas été fixé par le Conseil Général.

"3. Fixe l'époque et le mode d'adjudication des emprunts départementaux, lorsqu'ils n'ont pas été fixés par le Conseil Général.

"4. Fixe l'époque de l'adjudication des travaux d'utilité départementale."

La Commission adopte cet Article en y ajoutant une dernière phrase rédigée comme suit :

La Commission départementale est en outre investie des attributions énumérées dans le Tableau E de la première annexe au présent Chapitre.

Le Président relit et met aux voix les Articles 42, 43, 44, 45, et 46 :

"Art. 42. La Commission Départementale vérifie l'état des archives et celui du mobilier appartenant au département.

"Art. 43. La Commission Départementale peut charger un de ses membres d'une mission relative à des objets compris dans ses attributions.

"Art. 44. En cas de désaccord entre la Commission Départementale et le Préfet, l'affaire peut être renvoyée à la plus prochaine Session du Conseil Général, lequel statuera définitivement. En cas de conflit entre les deux pouvoirs, comme aussi dans le cas où la Commission aurait outre-passé ses attributions, le Conseil Général sera immédiatement convoqué et statuera sur les faits qui lui auront été soumis. Le Conseil Général pourra, s'il le juge convenable, procéder dès lors à la nomination d'une nouvelle Commission Départementale.

"Art. 45. Les membres des Conseils Généraux peuvent être désignés par le Préfet pour remplacer provisoirement un bailli.

"Art. 46. Toutes matières d'utilité départementale comprises dans les attributions des Conseils Généraux sont réglées par l'Assemblée Provinciale du moment qu'elles intéressent à la fois deux ou plusieurs départements. L'Assemblée Provinciale statue dans ce cas comme un Conseil Général, de telle sorte que pour avoir force exécutoire sa décision n'a pas besoin d'être sanctionnée par le Sultan, mais simplement publiée par le Gouverneur-Général."

La Commission adopte.

Le Président relit le projet de Règlement Organique sur la compétence des Conseils Généraux, deuxième annexe au Chapitre VI visé par l'Article 26 :

"II.—*Règlement Organique sur la compétence des Conseils Généraux.*

"Art. 1. Le Conseil Général vote les centimes additionnels aux contributions provinciales ainsi que les autres contributions départementales dont la perception est autorisée par les lois.

"Il peut voter également les emprunts départementaux remboursables dans un

délai de quinze ans sur les ressources du département. Dans le cas où il voterait une contribution ou un emprunt excédant les limites sus-indiquées, cette contribution ou cet emprunt, pour être valable, devra être autorisé par une loi.

"Art. 2. Le Conseil Général arrête, chaque année, à sa Session de Septembre, dans les limites fixées par la loi du budget provincial, le chiffre maximum des centimes additionnels que les communes urbaines et rurales, ainsi que les communautés religieuses dans les communes rurales peuvent voter sur les impôts publics et sur les contributions départementales pour en affecter le produit à des dépenses extraordinaires. Si le Conseil Général se sépare avant d'avoir rempli cet office le maximum fixé pour l'année précédente est maintenu.

"Art. 3. Le Conseil Général opère la reconnaissance, détermine la largeur, et prescrit l'ouverture et le redressement des chemins vicinaux de grande communication.

"Art. 4. Le Conseil Général détermine les conditions de capacité auxquelles sont tenus de satisfaire les candidats aux fonctions rétribuées par le département.

"Art. 5. Le Conseil Général statue définitivement sur les objets ci-après énumérés :

"1. Acquisition, aliénation, et échange des propriétés départementales, mobilières ou immobilières, quand ces propriétés ne sont pas affectées à un des services indiqués au No. 4 ;

"2. Mode de gestion des propriétés départementales ;

"3. Baux à loyer ou à ferme ;

"4. Changement de destination des immeubles départementaux, autres que les locaux affectés aux Tribunaux et au casernement de la milice et de la gendarmerie ;

"5. Acceptation de dons et de legs faits au département quand il ne donnent pas lieu à des réclamations de la part de tiers intéressés ou de la famille du testateur ;

"6. Classement et direction des routes départementales ; approbation des projets, plans et devis des travaux nécessités par la construction, le redressement, et l'entretien de ces routes ; désignation des services chargés de leur construction et de leur entretien ;

"7. Classement des chemins vicinaux de grande communication ; désignation des communes qui doivent concourir à la construction et à l'entretien de ces chemins, et fixation du contingent annuel de chaque commune, le tout sur l'avis des Conseils compétents ; désignation des services chargés des travaux ;

"8. Déclassement des routes départementales et des chemins vicinaux de grande communication ;

"9. Projets, plans, et devis, de tous autres travaux à exécuter sur les fonds départementaux ;

"10. Offres faits par les communes, les associations, ou les particuliers, pour concourir à des dépenses d'intérêt départemental ;

"11. Concessions de travaux d'intérêt départemental ;

"12. Etablissement et entretien des bacs et passages d'eau sur les routes et chemins à la charge du département ; fixation des Tarifs de péages ;

"13. Assurance des bâtiments départementaux ;

"14. Actions à intenter en justice au nom du département, sauf les cas d'urgence réservés à l'appréciation de la Commission Départementale ;

"15. Transactions concernant les droits du département ;

"16. Service des aliénés ;

"17. Création et fonctionnement des établissements départementaux d'assistance publique, orphelinats, &c. ;

"18. Pensions aux employés rétribués par le département ;

"19. Part contributive du département aux dépenses de travaux communaux intéressant le département ;

"20. Délibération des Conseils Municipaux ayant pour but l'établissement, la supression, ou les changements des foires et marchés ;

"21. Délibérations des Conseils Municipaux concernant les octrois.

"Art. 6. Les délibérations par lesquelles les Conseils Généraux statuent définitivement sont exécutoires si, dans le délai de quinze jours à partir de la clôture de la Session, le Préfet n'en a pas demandé l'annulation pour excès de pouvoir ou pour violation d'une disposition d'une loi ou d'un règlement d'administration publique. Le recours formé par le Préfet doit être notifié au Président du Conseil Général. Si, dans un délai de vingt jours à partir de la notification, l'annulation n'a pas été prononcée, la délibération est exécutoire. L'annulation ne peut être prononcée que par une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général, rendue dans la forme d'un règlement d'administration publique.

"Art. 7. Le Conseil Général délibère sur tout autre objet d'intérêt départemental qu'il ne peut pas trancher de sa seule autorité, et dont il est saisi, soit par une proposition du Préfet soit sur l'initiative d'un de ses membres. Toute délibération de ce genre est exécutoire si, dans un délai de six semaines après la clôture de la Session, une Ordonnance rendue en Conseil Privé n'en a pas suspendu ou interdit l'exécution.

"Art. 8. Le Conseil Général donne son avis sur tous les objets sur lesquels il est appelé par une loi à l'émettre ainsi que sur ceux sur lesquels il est consulté, soit par le Gouverneur-Général soit par un des Administrateurs-Généraux.

"Art. 9. Le Conseil Général peut adresser directement au Gouverneur-Général et aux Administrateurs-Généraux, par l'intermédiaire de son Président, les réclamations qu'il aurait à présenter dans l'intérêt du département, ainsi que son opinion sur l'état et les besoins des différents services publics, en ce qui touche le département. Il peut charger un ou plusieurs de ses membres de recueillir sur les lieux les renseignements qui lui sont nécessaires pour statuer sur les affaires placées dans ses attributions."

La Commission adopte ce règlement, l'Article 2 étant modifié comme suit :—

"Art. 2. Le Conseil Général arrête chaque année, à sa Session de Septembre, dans les limites fixées par la loi du budget, le chiffre maximum des paras additionels que les communes urbaines et rurales, ainsi que les subdivisions des communes rurales, peuvent voter sur les impôts publics, et sur les contributions départementales pour en affecter le produit à des dépenses extraordinaires. Si le Conseil Général se sépare avant d'avoir rempli cet office, le maximum fixé pour l'année précédente est maintenue.

"Un règlement spécial d'administration publique peut autoriser les communes urbaines et rurales, ainsi que les subdivisions des communes rurales à s'imposer au-delà du maximum fixé pour l'année.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée au 1er Mars :—

1. Le Chapitre VI : "des Subdivisions de la Province et de leur administration :"
2. Le débat sur la Caisse réservée ;
3. La motion de Sir H. Drummond Wolff sur les Pétitions Nos. 85, 86, 87, 88, et 89.

La séance est levée à 6 heures 57 minutes.

(Signé) V. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
RING.
COUTOULY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.

No. 161.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 7.*)

(No. 277.) *Constantinople, March* 28, 1879.

My Lord,

I INFORMED the Grand Vizier confidentially on the 26th instant, of the reasons which led Her Majesty's Government to advise the Porte to accept the proposal made by Russia for a mixed occupation of the Province of Eastern Roumelia. I informed his Highness that the proposal would be to place a mixed force of about 10,000 men under command of the International Commission, who would continue to remain in the province for a year. This force would keep order in the province for that time, at the end of which

the institutions organized by the Commission would be established and work evenly. The Ottoman forces would occupy Bourgas, and some station near Ichtiman in force, as well as some Balkan station if the Porte desired it. I stated that Her Majesty's Government would not suggest compliance to the Government of His Imperial Majesty if any prospect appeared of a Turkish force being ready for the work. But with some 50,000 armed Bulgarians in Roumelia, with the probability of rebellion in Macedonia, and a certainty that in case of trouble Greece will take advantage of it, with the Exchequer for the moment empty, your Lordship could not but fear that Turkey would not have a force sufficient to cope with such difficulties in time, and that the outbreak of a rebellion in Eastern Roumelia might lead to utter ruin.

Her Majesty's Government therefore recommend the Sublime Porte to accede to the proposal for a mixed occupation.

As English and Italian forces will take part in it no harm could result to Turkey. While, on the other hand, if the offer be refused, rebellion will break out the moment the Russians have left, and Turkey will have to meet it alone.

The Grand Vizier seemed impressed with the arguments of Her Majesty's Government. He said he could give me no opinion as to the course which the Porte would adopt, as the question was at that moment under discussion in the Council, where the proposal met with much opposition. He would, however, immediately lay before it the views of Her Majesty's Government and would inform me of the decision of the Council as soon as one was come to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 162.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 7.*)

(No. 278.) *Constantinople, March* 28, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 264 of to-day, I have the honour to inclose an official notification published in the "Turquie" announcing that the Sultan had given orders that such gold and silver plate as was not actually required for the Imperial Service should be sent to the mint for conversion into coin, and the proceeds devoted to the withdrawal of the paper currency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 162.

Extract from "la Turquie" of March 27, 1879.

LES efforts que, dans sa sollicitude paternelle, Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan n'a jamais cessé de faire dans le but de retirer de la circulation le caïmé, qui a occasionné tant d'entraves et de difficultés aux transactions publiques, viennent cette fois de prendre des proportions encore plus grandes.

Nul n'ignore que de même que Sa Majesté Impériale n'a rien à cœur autant que le bien-être et la prospérité de ses peuples, de même elle ne désire rien tant que de voir ses désirs couronnées d'un plein succès.

Ainsi, comme dans les Palais Impériaux, il y une quantité d'objets en or et en argent qui représentent un luxe superflu, Sa Majesté a décidé qu'à l'exception d'une partie strictement nécessaire au service Impérial, tout le reste serait envoyé à l'Hôtel des Monnaies pour être converti en espèces, dont le montant sera affecté exclusivement à l'achat du caïmé.

Les caïmés ramassés seront détruits en présence de deux délégués de chaque quartier, lesquels seront requis pour assister à cette opération.

No. 163.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 279. Secret.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 28, 1879.*

I RECEIVED, on the 26th instant, a message from the Sultan, expressing his desire to see me yesterday at 3 o'clock.

His Imperial Majesty said to me that he had sent for me in order to learn my personal opinion with regard to the mixed occupation. The Grand Vizier had communicated to His Majesty the reasons which had induced Her Majesty's Government to recommend the Sublime Porte to accept it. I replied by going over these reasons *seriatim*, in order to avoid the chance of their having been in any way stated so as not to give His Majesty a full impression of their indisputable weight, and I added that if Her Majesty's Government had come to the resolution that a mixed occupation was necessary, it was due to the fact that the march of events had rendered it the only means of preserving His Majesty's Empire from ruin.

I said that Russia having proposed it showed that the policy which had been pursued by Russian agents in Eastern Roumelia had borne fruits beyond the desire of the Government, and that she sought to extricate herself from the entanglement woven with the threads of intrigue. The Emperor had manifested a firm intention to execute the Treaty of Berlin, and it was to be supposed that he now feared that the withdrawal of his forces from the province would be the signal for the recommencement of the conflict between Christians and Mussulmans, which might compel the return of the Russian troops, and, thereby, the renewal of the war. This was a danger which His Majesty the Sultan had already adverted to in conversation with me. It appeared to be shared by both Sovereigns. I asked His Majesty if he would inform me of his opinion for conveyance to Her Majesty's Government, and he replied that he could not give it until he had consulted his Cabinet.

His Majesty then spoke of the financial extremity of the country, and urged that, if England had goodwill towards the Ottoman Empire, it should extend a friendly hand to it now, for that if it delayed the ruin would be complete, and then the friendly intentions, of which he had had so many assurances, would be of no avail.

I replied that Her Majesty's Government had evinced their desire to assist Turkey by the manner in which they had entertained the financial scheme submitted by Musurus Pasha, but that the negotiations on the subject had ceased on the signature of the Tocqueville Convention. His Majesty must remember that England was a constitutional country, and that the Government could not act without the consent of Parliament. That great distrust in Turkey's financial good faith and her general future had been caused by past events, and that one of the factors of that distrust at the present moment was the impression which existed of the instability of the Ottoman Government. The Grand Vizier was a man of enlightened views and great energy. As long as he remained in power there would be a guarantee that personal interests would be set aside and reforms proceeded with. Her Majesty's Government would be greatly facilitated in any assistance which it desired to give the Empire if it were known that His Majesty had not any intention of changing the Grand Vizier.

His Majesty replied that to change a Minister without cause would be an act of madness; that he had full confidence in the Grand Vizier, and no intention to change.

On returning to the Embassy I found your Lordship's telegram of the 27th instant, informing me that Her Majesty's Government have agreed to appoint Commissioners, in case there is no serious objection to the financial scheme respecting which negotiations are being carried on, and that they will do what they can to assist these negotiations.

As His Majesty had previously done me the honour to open a correspondence with me, I immediately wrote a letter giving the substance of your Lordship's telegram, in which I stated to His Majesty, in accordance with your Lordship's instructions, that, in order to give these financial efforts a chance of success, it would be fatal to give the impression of the present Turkish Government being unstable, and that any change of the Grand Vizier would put an end to the negotiations.

I dispatched this letter at once, as there was a rumour in town that the Grand Vizier had decided to ask His Majesty in the evening to change certain members of the Ministry, who impeded His Highness' policy, or to allow him to resign.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 164.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 281.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 28, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches, upon matters of interest in their respective districts, from Her Majesty's Consuls and Vice-Consuls at Larissa, Salonica, Adrianople, Sulina, and Rustchuk.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 164.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Larissa, March 17, 1879.*

THE Mushir, Abdi Pasha, has called the attention of the Porte to the good services rendered by Saïd Pasha, the Governor of Thessaly, and has recommended his promotion from the rank of "Beylerbey" to that of "Vezir."

Saïd Pasha took up his present appointment very shortly after my arrival here, nearly a year ago, and during this period—involved in very trying circumstances—he conducted his administration with equal moderation and impartiality towards all classes of the population, and has done his best to conciliate the Christians and carry out the humane policy of the Sultan.

He was formerly Governor of the Island of Cyprus, where, according to the accounts published in some of the English newspapers, as I have had occasion to report to Sir Henry Layard, he also distinguished himself by his ability and upright and honourable conduct.

My relations with him have been mutually of a satisfactory and friendly nature, and I cannot but speak in the highest terms of praise of the courtesy and kindness he has shown to me, and of the facilities he has rendered to my mission in Thessaly.

Under these circumstances, I trust your Excellency will pardon me if I venture to take the liberty to solicit your support in favour of a Turkish functionary who has deserved and elicited the respect and esteem of both Turks and Christians in this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 164.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Larissa, March 18, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the local Beys and principal landowners here have held several private meetings since the 10th instant, to take into consideration some confidential communications which they have recently received from the Albanian Beys in Epirus, proposing that the Mahommedan community of Thessaly should join that of Epirus in formally remonstrating against the cession of Turkish territory to Greece, and that delegates should be appointed by both provinces in order to confer as to the best means to be adopted by the Mahommedan communities for the protection of their rights in the present juncture.

At one of their last meetings these Beys resolved, subject to the approval of Saïd Pasha, the Governor of Thessaly, that four of their number—namely, Dervish Bey, Shereff Bey, Haïdar Bey, and Kahriman Bey—should proceed to Prevesa, and put themselves in communication with the delegates who may be elected by the community of Epirus, and at the same time present a memorial to the Ottoman Commissioners, Ghazi Moukhtar Pasha and Constant Pasha, protesting in the name of the Mahommedan community of this province against the proposed cession to Greece of any portion of Thessaly.

I now learn that Saïd Pasha, on being consulted on the subject by some of the most influential Beys, explained to them that it would be impolitic and useless to make any demonstration in the sense proposed by the Beys of Epirus; recommended them to be careful not to take any steps likely to disturb the present negotiations at Prevesa; and exhorted them to confide in the efforts of the Sultan's Government to protect their rights and interests.

This language has produced a strong impression upon the Beys, and, from all I hear, I have reason to believe that it will induce them to modify, if not to renounce, their determination to send delegates to Prevesa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 164.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Malet.

Larissa, March 18, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that, with reference to the confidential communications which have been recently received here from Epirus, and which have caused some movement among the Beys and landowners at this place, as mentioned in my preceding Report of this day, it is very confidently asserted here and believed that the Italian Government encourages, through its Consular Agents, the Beys of Epirus to agitate against any portion of their province being transferred to Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 164.

Consul Barker to Mr. Malet.

Salonica, March 22, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that yesterday an order from the Porte was received by the Governor-General, and also by the Chief of the Customs, to the following effect:—

All payments made to the Government to be 80 per cent. in metallic "beshlics," and 20 per cent. in paper "caimé."

And this twentieth part paid in "caimé," is fixed and calculated at 325 piastres for the Turkish lira.

The salaries of all Government officials to be paid in metallic "beshlics."

Great loss and inconvenience will be suffered by the villagers; for in the rural districts there is no metallic currency in circulation, and paper being no longer a legal tender, when the villagers came to the towns to exchange their paper for metallic coins, they will lose about half the value, since "caimés" are now quoted at 500 to 600 for the lira (and not 325 as fixed by the Porte), with every prospect of a still further depreciation.

His Excellency Vice-Admiral Hornby, in the "Alexandra," with three more of Her Majesty's ships, came into port this afternoon at 4 P.M.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 5 in No. 164.

Acting Consul Calvert to Mr. Malet.

Adrianople, March 23, 1879.

Sir,

REOUF PASHA informs me that every part of the Province of Adrianople is now completely evacuated by the Russian troops, and that Turkish pickets occupy the whole border of Eastern Roumelia from end to end.

The Russian ex-Governor, Vice-Governor, and Military Commandant of Adrianople, with some other officials, had found it necessary, after the transference of their administrative powers to the Ottoman authorities, to defer their departure for a few days in order to wind up some supplementary affairs of detail, but they left for Philippopolis on the 21st instant. The Sub-Governor of Ouzoun-Keupry (whose contumacious attitude was reported in my last despatch of the 20th instant) has been persuaded at last to do the same; and the small detachments or squads, who had been left at certain points to guard the remnants of commissariat stores, have now, I understand, been withdrawn to a man.

It appears that the refusal of the Sub-Governor to quit Ouzoun-Keupry was occasioned by a dispute which arose between him and the Turkish authorities there on the subject of a last batch of emigrants, whose departure was opposed by the latter. A Russian officer arrived here yesterday, charged by General Skobeleff to treat with Reouf Pasha on this subject, and to obtain from his Excellency a promise that no restrictions should be placed on the movements of persons wishing to emigrate.

A fresh emigration has taken place since my last Report, to the extent of 200 families, belonging to the Bulgarian villages of Demir-Khanli, Heïbeli, Tchakmak, and Arpatch, which lie between this and Kirk-Kilissé. No opposition appears to have been made to the departure of these people.

The province continues to enjoy perfect tranquillity, although it is, Colonel Blunt informs me, overrun with Russian agents and suspicious characters.

It has already been found necessary to commence the process of weeding which I foresaw would have to be applied to the contingent of volunteers from the Russian local police into the Turkish gendarmerie corps, many of the former having given signs of an insubordinate spirit and other objectionable qualities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 6 in No. 164.

Acting Consul Calvert to Mr. Malet.

Adrianople, March 25, 1879.

Sir,

ONE of the persons of confidence (a Bulgarian) sent by Reouf Pasha into the rural districts with a view to arrest the progress of the Christian emigration having returned to-day from Mustafa-Pasha, where he has been engaged on that mission during the last fortnight, I have questioned him on the subject of the massacres alleged to have taken place in that part of the country, as reported in my telegrams to your Excellency of the 19th, 20th, and 21st instant.

This person informs me that no report of the kind reached his ears there. The villages where the massacres are stated to have occurred being, however, in Eastern Roumelia, lay beyond the topographical area of his mission. He heard the name of but one of those villages mentioned in any way, and that only yesterday, when a Russian officer and some Bulgarians at the Mustafa-Pasha Railway Station were discussing an occurrence, the scene of which, they said, was at Indjirli.

Indjirli is the true name of the place reported to the authorities here as "Indjeli." It is the "Yenidjeli" of Kiepert's map, and lies about 20 kilom. beyond Mustafa-Pasha, not far from the railway. According to the speakers above-mentioned, some Turks there had taken up arms against the Bulgarians and had wounded several of them; also three Cossacks forming part of a detachment which came to the rescue. The Turks, it was added, succeeded in effecting their escape. My informant did not gather the date of this occurrence.

An opportunity has presented itself of obtaining by inquiry on the spot reliable information regarding the above-mentioned village and the two others; and I hope to be able to submit the same to your Excellency in the course of a few days.

Meanwhile, I may here mention that Turkish fugitives whom I have questioned give the following account of misdeeds at Sarhanli and Sadykli. Lamentable as they are, your Excellency will perceive that they fall far short of the dimensions of a massacre. On a comparison of dates it appears, however, to be just possible that the alleged events may have occurred subsequent to the departure of the informants from their respective homes.

At Sarhanli, the Mollah of the village and his wife were, on the 15th instant, tortured with hot irons, and their little girl cruelly beaten, by Bulgarians of the same village, to make them reveal their hidden treasures, which, however, only amounted to 13 piastres. Husband and wife were then badly wounded with shots in the arms and legs.

At Sadykli (two hours from the Tirnova-Semenli Railway Station) three Turks have lately been beaten to death by Bulgarians in the endeavour to extort money from them. Two married women have been killed while resisting outrage.

Turkish fugitives from Eastern Roumelia continue to arrive here, all bringing the same distressing accounts. The following villages have been entirely abandoned by their inhabitants within the last week, in consequence of the increasing ill-treatment to which they were subjected at the hands of the Bulgarians:—Drama (thirty families), Yonuz-Bukli (forty-five families), Pirindjli (seventy-two families). The two last-named places

are near the Seïmenli Railway Station. According to the fugitives, other villages in the neighbourhood are—to use their own expression—"blockaded" by the Bulgarians, who neither allow access to them nor permit the inhabitants to come away. Nothing is consequently known as to their condition. These villages are: Sudykli (above-mentioned, only one man from which has succeeded in getting away), Duduktchili, Resilli, Mezatdji, Sor-Tekkesi, and Hassobasi.

The misdeeds reported from various other places are of the same general character as those which prevailed last summer and autumn, with the frequent addition of the more recent feature of torture with heated irons. The case of Dévédji-Khulfa-Kioï, a mixed village five hours from Yanboli, is, however, of a novel type. The whole Turkish population, men, women, and children, amounting to 150 souls, were on the 15th instant collected in a barn and kept there without food for the purpose of extortion. One of the men effected his escape through the connivance of a friendly Bulgarian who was on guard. His fellow-villagers had been shut up twenty-four hours when he got away.

On the return to Philippopolis (the 22nd instant) of Mahir Bey (Colonel Borthwick), attached to the Turkish Commission there, I communicated to him an outline of most of the above particulars.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 7 in No. 164.

Vice-Consul Stokes to Mr. Malet.

Sulina, March 18, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE now the honour to inform you that the Roumanian authorities have establish a vigorous quarantine upon all arrivals from the Dobrudscha; this measure has been adopted in consequence of the passage of Russian troops through the province on their return to Russia; but the communication between this place and Galatz will continue open (as hitherto). The Roumanian Administrator here, M. Secolari, has been dismissed from his post by his Government and fined 200 fr. on account of his arbitrary conduct in matters generally.

The health of the town has much improved, and there are at present but a few cases of small-pox (of a very mild type).

I have, &c.
(Signed) OCTAVIUS STOKES.

Inclosure 8 in No. 164.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Malet.

Rustchuk, March 21, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report the following shipments of Russian troops from this place: on the 15th, 4 schleps, cavalry; 17th, 6 schleps, cavalry, Hussars; 20th, 1 steamer, cavalry; 21st, 2 schleps, cavalry; besides these there have been some infantry embarked further down the river.

The Governor informed me the other day that in two weeks the evacuation as regards Rustchuk would be complete.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 9 in No. 164.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Malet.

Rustchuk, March 25, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to state, in reply to your Excellency's demand, that no active measures whatever have been taken to destroy the fortifications of Rustchuk.

The retaining walls of the great ditch round the town which belong to the old fortress now out of date have been to some extent destroyed in one or two places, for the purpose of using the dressed facing stones as pavement for the footpath in the principal street,

and the rubble backing as macadam. Also the stone facing of the lunettes on the Lom has been removed for the same purpose.

With regard to the modern earthworks, they remain in precisely the same state in which the Turks left them, only that the damage done by frost, &c., has not been repaired.

I visited the principal work, Ievan Tabia, on the 22nd for the purpose of seeing if anything had been done. I believe this is the only work which had stone-arched casemates, and I found that these latter were intact, though some of the constructions which have wooden roofs have been pulled to pieces, probably by the Turks, having need of timber A small quantity of Turkish ammunition still remains, but the place, like all the other forts, is without any guard and apparently abandoned.

It would require comparatively little labour to restore this work, whereas that originally spent on it required several years to accomplish.

I shall again address your Excellency regarding Shumla after I have been there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

No. 165.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 44. Political.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, March* 18, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that I was this day presented to His Roya Highness Prince Charles, at his own request, by Mr. White. The audience lasted over an hour; His Royal Highness to me was frank and friendly throughout. He expressed a great desire for the sympathy and good-will of the Bulgarian people, and was much gratified to learn of their, on the whole, amicable dispositions. He seemed much gratified by intelligence of the progress of the Russian evacuation; but seemed anxious about the future condition of Bulgaria should not the Russian army only but the Civil Staff quit the country before the full organization of Government. He also expressed anxiety about the results of Turkish military occupation along the Balkan line; and in particular about the interval between any such occupation and the Russian evacuation. On all these points I answered by assuring His Royal Highness that there was no doubt of the literal fulfilment of the stipulations of the Berlin Treaty; and that the various difficulties he indicated would, it might be reasonably hoped, disappear before the course of events.

The Prince complained that the Bulgarian Notables, while expressing their gratitude to Russia, had said nothing in their address acknowledging the part taken by Roumania in their deliverance. I answered that any such omission was due merely to actual but temporary influences, easily understood. Similarly, that expressions of irritation regarding the affair of Arab Tabia were to be attributed less to the Bulgarians, who were tolerably indifferent to the whole affair, than to the Russians; and that a somewhat analogous line of thought and feeling was to be noticed in respect of the annexation of the Dobrudscha.

His Highness also complained of hindrances put by the Russian authorities in the way of the customary yearly immigration of Bulgarian labour into Roumania. I assured him that English support might be reckoned on to remove all such vexatious obstacles to free intercourse and trade. He next inquired much and with evident interest regarding the probabilities of candidature for the Bulgarian Principality, mentioned Prince Reuss, and hinted at Prince Dondoukoff. I pointed out the inadmissibility of the last; but had, of course, no data on the subject in general.

Finally, His Royal Highness dismissed me with many assurances of good-will towards and hopes of friendly intercourse with Bulgaria, so far as English influence there should be concerned—hopes which I naturally reciprocated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 166.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 45. Political.)
Tirnovo, March 21, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour of telegraphing this day to your Lordship as follows:—

"Arrived last night. Assembly begins the consideration of the Organic Law to-morrow. Proceedings will be, it is thought, orderly. I have communicated to the Russian Commissary my objections to paragraphs 1, 2, and 16. He disavows responsibility, and refers to St. Petersburgh, but promises that he will try to have paragraphs 1 and 2 omitted from the programme.

"M. Geshoff proceeds for Europe to-morrow exclusively on account of Roumelia. He goes to Paris, but will not visit England."

For completer understanding of the above I have the honour to add:—

The Turkish Commissary not having been able to inform me in what sense, or on what particular sense, his Government objected to the Articles in question, I notified to the Russian Commissary the support given by Her Majesty's Government to the Ottoman objections in comprehensive but general terms.

Regarding M. Geshoff, that person seems to expect, but on what grounds I am unable to state, more favour towards Eastern Roumelian wishes at Paris than elsewhere.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 167.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 46. Political.)
Tirnovo, March 25, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Assembly of Notables, in their sitting of Saturday last, the 22nd instant, elected from among themselves a Committee of fifteen, to which they have entrusted the summary examination of the project of Organic Law laid before them by the Russian Commissary, and which is, on Wednesday the 2nd April, to present its Report to the Assembly. The Programme, with the annotations of the Committee, will be then discussed, Article by Article, by the Assembly in its further sittings.

As Holy Week and Easter-tide will bring a recess of a fortnight at least during the month of April, beginning from the 6th or thereabouts, it is tolerably certain that the Assembly will not, and, indeed, cannot, have terminated its talk much before the end of next month, if even then.

And, as a second and larger Assembly will have, according to the actual programme of affairs, to be summoned for the election of the Prince, a process requiring a month at the very least, it may safely be predicted that, as matters now go on, the Bulgarian Principality wil not be in a position to enter on the enjoyment of its autonomy till mid-June at the earliest, though a yet later date, in August or even September, seems not unlikely.

In my despatch No. 34, Political, of the 11th March, I had the honour of touching on the causes, real or conjectural, of this delay. Their working is now more definite, as I will endeavour, with all possible brevity, to explain.

Two parties are now clearly marked off within the Assembly. The first, called the Conservative, or Party of Order, and which has its strength among the clergy and the *ex officio* members, includes the genuine Russophiles, a very small but compact number, and the great mass of place-lovers and trimmers, whose main object is to keep well with the actual Administration in view of present advantages or favours to come. Their tactics are to limit the action and procedures of the Assembly strictly within the sphere and forms indicated by the Treaty of Berlin, while availing themselves of the same forms to protect the work and existence of the Assembly, and by an indirect but necessary consequence of the Provisional Government under which that Assembly has been summoned. How far these tactics are really enjoined by Russian influence itself it is not easy, in the face of renewed and daily protestations to the contrary, to decide.

This party commands, at the moment, a working majority within the Assembly, though not, I am positive, without it. But it is by no means solid, and shows frequent symptoms of breaking up. Its ostensible relations are with the Russian Commissary; but some of its members have frequent but secret relations with the Austrian Delegate. What strength and cohesion it has are due solely to actual Russian presence. The moment that presence is withdrawn it will fall to pieces, though leaving behind it a permanent and compact Russophile nucleus in the clergy. But the influence of the clergy, often much overrated by those outside, is really very small among the Bulgarians themselves.

The second party, known at first as "Ultras," now as "Patriots," or "National," is much more compact, and has in it the elements, not merely of permanence, but also, though at present in a minority within the Assembly, of ultimate majority. Opposed to all foreign preponderance, its principal antagonism is now, naturally, to the Russian; but it looks also with great suspicion on Austrian influence, and directs its views further west.

This party also favours the policy of delay, or, as intended by it, of obstruction rather. Its maxim is, that neither the present Assembly nor any other called together by Russian authority and under Russian administration can really provide for the good or satisfy the wishes of the nation. Hence it desires that the work of the Assembly should remain incomplete and inefficacious during the entire term allotted to the Provisional Government, in the hope of a new phase, under which a completer liberty of thought and action may allow the country to develop its Constitution after its own fashion, and choose a Prince after its own heart.

Thus, while contrary in its procedure to the letter of the Treaty of Berlin, it professes, with what justice it is not easy to decide, to be more in accordance with its spirit.

Meanwhile, the action of both parties, though proceeding from diametrically opposite motives, culminates in the same result, namely, delay.

As the consequences of a prolongation of this state of things cannot but be extremely inconvenient, I have tried my influence with either party separately to bring about a change of tactics. With the Conservative or Russianizing party I have had no real success, a fact which confirms me in my suspicion that this party is acting under a positive influence from higher up. But with the "Patriot" party the case is very different. Their delays proceed from indecision, or rather from unwillingness to come to a decision in the present position of affairs. Let us only, say they, be assured of what and whom we are working for; let us be enabled to frame a Constitution suited to our requirements, and have as goal a Prince who will profit us, and we will get all ready for the 3rd May. But for this, they add, we must know where to look for support. On these conditions we will do as you wish, and the Berlin Treaty shall, so far as Bulgaria is concerned, be fulfilled in letter and in spirit alike. Such is their answer, and such would, I believe, be their conduct.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 168.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 47. Political. Confidential.)
Tirnovo, March 25, 1879.

My Lord,

IN reply to a telegram received this morning from your Lordship, I have had the honour to send a cyphered despatch, the first paragraph of which repeats the concluding one of your Lordship's telegram, rendered unintelligible by errors of transmission, and requests explanation.

My despatch then proceeds to state that a strong popular tendency exists here towards the election of a brother of Prince Charles, or of the King of Greece, as the best means of counteracting Russia and counterbalancing Servia with her possible allies. It concludes that, should your Lordship think fit, one or the other might easily be elected.

I now have the honour to add, in elucidation of the above:—

Through the means of the "Patriot" members of the Committee of Revision, alluded to in my immediately preceding despatch, I trust to have the Constitutional programme presented on Wednesday week to the Assembly in a form that will

strengthen and give courage to the National party, with an exactly opposite effect on the Russian.

This done, the plan is to work, by means of the secret associations throughout the country, in favour of a given candidate for the Principality, and to have, by the same means, in readiness a sudden and overwhelming popular demonstration in favour of the said candidate; while an assured majority within the Assembly itself refuses to make over its rights of election, as the Russian programme proposes, to a second Assembly, and demands, in virtue of the VIIth Article of the Berlin Treaty, to proceed immediately to the election of the Prince.

I need not point out how completely and satisfactorily all the intrigues for the prolongation of the Provisional Russian Administration, with their consequences, would be checkmated by such a proceeding; but the one indispensable condition for its success is, that a suitable and popular candidate for the Princedom be ready to hand.

A Russian is out of the question; a Servian or a Montenegrin, if the popular will is to be consulted, not less so. The Princes Reuss and Battenberg are, for the vast majority of electors, mere unknown quantities, where indeed the suspicion of their representing in some manner or other Russian influence does not render them negative ones. A Prince who, while allied by race with the Western European families, may be at the same time allied with not too powerful Eastern neighbours by position of circumstances, and may thus offer a present guarantee against the intrigues and the dreaded preponderance of the two great and encroaching neighbours, Russia and Austria alike. This is what the good sense of the nation wishes for, and this, except in a brother of King George of Greece or Prince Charles of Roumania, it can hardly find.

Such a choice would, independently of what benefits it might confer on Bulgaria itself, offer two great advantages to Europe at large; the one a strong frontier guard, absolutely adverse to Russia, and not overmuch inclined to Austria, between Constantinople and the Straits on one side and possible invaders on the other; the second advantage, an extensive tract in the Balkan Peninsula nearly impervious to intrigue and disturbance from without, and in tolerable quiet and harmony with its immediate neighbours.

That such a candidature would meet with energetic opposition on the part of the Russian authorities is certain, nor would it be acceptable to any Power whatever that might wish the field kept open for intrigue, and possible intervention further on. But these are obstacles over which the popular and national will, basing itself on the elective rights conferred by the Treaty of Berlin, and supported by those who desire the execution and the permanence of what that Treaty has created, would, it is hoped, triumph after a short struggle.

Such is the programme of the National party. It seems to me worthy of attention, and as such I beg most respectfully to submit it to your Lordship's consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 169.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 48. Political.)
Tirnovo, March 25, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that, according to trustworthy information received from Rustchuk and Varna, the evacuation of the Russian cavalry forces, lately occupying the Adrianople districts, is now complete. The infantry is stated to have been chiefly shipped from Bourgas. I am informed that a considerable amount of arms and ammunition have been left behind as supply to the Bulgaria militia, perhaps to the East Roumelian also. But on this last point I have no certain data.

Six divisions of infantry and two of cavalry remained in Bulgaria and East Roumelia conjointly under the command of Prince Dondoukoff. But of these one division of infantry is just leaving, or has already left, viâ Bourgas. A second is to follow within three weeks, and a third immediately after Easter.

Russian ideas assign, I find, a delay of three months, counting from 3rd May, to the complete military evacuation of the two provinces; I am not sure how far this idea is, or is not, in accordance with the last passage of Article XXII of the Treaty of Berlin.

But I have pointed out, in the plainest possible manner, to his Excellency the Russian Commissioner, that no such delay is anyhow accorded to the cessation of the Provisional Government, which comes definitely and absolutely to an end on the 3rd May.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 170.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 49. Political.)
Tirnovo, March 27, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Imperal Ottoman Commissary has lately supplied the Consuls-General and Delegates *ad hoc* in this place, myself among the rest, with a copy of a Memorandum addressed by himself to the Imperial Russian Commissary regarding certain difficulties said to have been placed in the way of the Mahommedan inhabitants of this Principality in regard of the sale or transfer of their property, real or personal, subjoining complaints of the alleged demolition of minarets and of private dwellings without just cause.

Some Turkish petitions to the same effect, signed by the Mahommedan inhabitants of Tirnovo and its neighbourhood, have also, at the desire of the Ottoman Commissary, been at different times presented to the several Delegates, including myself.

It is to be remarked that the Ottoman Laws and Regulations in respect of property, real or personal, have been retained almost without modification, and acted on by the Provisional Administration, from its first establishment in Bulgaria up to the present date. Hence the complaints of the Ottoman Commissary are directed rather against the application of the existing legislation than against its principles, though the latter also are, indeed, but indirectly touched.

My colleagues have, I find, unanimously agreed on taking no steps whatever with the Imperial Russian Commissary in regard of the documents above mentioned, partly because of the impossibility of verifying the statements and cases; partly as regarding the representations made by the Imperial Ottoman Commissary sufficient under the circumstances.

While conforming my opinion to theirs, from which, indeed, I see no essential reason for dissidence, I have yet, in compliance with the wish of the Ottoman Commissary, made mention of these complaints, in conversation with the Russian Commissary, and requested that due attention might be paid to them, receiving on such occasions a general but affirmative answer.

It is also my intention to take further information on this subject, and I shall have the honour of communicating it to your Lordship as soon as obtained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 171.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 50. Political.)
Tirnovo, March 27, 1879.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY I had the honour to telegraph to your Lordship requesting permission to absent myself from this place during the Easter recess of the Assembly, in order to visit Sophia, where affairs require my presence for a few days, taking Varna and Constantinople on the way. Nothing of any importance will, it is certain, take place here during the Easter recess. I can safely leave Tirnovo on the 3rd of next month, returning here by the 18th.

A visit to the Vice-Consulate of Varna, which the Rustchuk railway renders easy of access from this place, seems to me highly expedient, especially at this time. From thence to Constantinople is only a night's voyage by the Austrian steamer. It would be very advantageous for me to have an opportunity of consulting Mr. Malet, on whose judgment I place much reliance, as to the possible course of events towards

the close of the Assembly here at the end of April. Two days will suffice at Constantinople. Four days more will take me, by the help of the Adrianople line, to Sophia.

At Sophia I shall obtain trustworthy information, a thing impossible here, as to the position of affairs in the south-eastern portion of the Principality, and shall also be able to consult some documents of importance which I have left there, under double lock, among the archives, as also to take what I have need of. Thence I should return here by the nearest route. My Secretary would remain here till the commencement of Holy Week, the 6th April, when he would leave for Sophia to join me there, as would also the courier, bringing the latest despatches from Rustchuk.

The want of an adequate staff and the urgency of affairs appears to me to render the journey above indicated very expedient, if not absolutely necessary. A collateral advantage would be that the enforced cessation from writing while on the road may contribute to the cure of an inflammation of the eyes, brought on, it seems, by over work, from which I have been suffering for some time past, and which threatens, if not relieved, inconvenient consequences.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 172.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 98.)
Bucharest, March 20, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship two précis of M. Bratiano's (the Prime Minister's) speeches on the resolution for amending Article 7 of the Constitution, one in the Senate, the other in the Chamber of Deputies.

At first I was desirous of putting your Lordship in possession of entire translations of these, but their perusal convinced me that they could have no interest for any one not conversant with local Roumanian politics, and that moreover, even in their present form, to those who expect to find in them a programme on the Jewish question they are rather disappointing, as, like all that was said during these debates, they were spoken chiefly with an eye to the approaching general election.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 172.

Précis of a Speech of M. Bratiano, Prime Minister of Roumania, in the Senate, on March 12, 1879, *on the Resolution recommending Amendment of Article 7 of the Constitution.*

IN reply to M. Epureano, M. Bratiano says that he never sought to obtain office through the support of any foreign Power, and that, on the contrary, it would appear that he may have to resign soon in consequence of the views of foreign Governments, but that he is always quite ready to quit office whenever his continuation in it may be injurious to the interests of his country.

From the speech of that gentlemen an erroneous impression may be produced abroad that one man has a sort of Vizirial full command in the country, and that his orders have only to be issued to insure obedience. Such is by no means the case, and M. Bratiano goes on to explain why, in his opinion, the revision of the Constitution must be confined to that of Article 7; he regrets that that question, like every other, is made a party question.

Such was the case with the acceptance of the Dobrudscha, when the representatives of the people were divided into Dobrudschaists and anti-Dobrudschaists, and in a similar way now, when the question of adding certain motives as a preamble to the proposed resolution on Article 7, there are two camps again, motivists in the one, anti-motivists in the other, solutionists opposed to anti-solutionists.

But what necessity is there to assign motives for this resolution? The future Chambers will have a Constitutional right to amend Article 7, and to proceed as they think proper, without being bound by any observations we, in the present session, choose to prescribe to them.

M. Voinov, in recommending a preamble, said the nation must be woke; it appeared to him, however, that their people needed no such rousing, and that some of the speakers they had heard there or in the Chamber were much more likely to wake the "Alliance Israélite," of which M. Voinov told them so much.

He regrets likewise the accusations that have been made against some of them of being philo-Hebrews. When this will be read abroad and the speech of M. Voinov, the old accusations against them will be renewed, according to which only a few politicians amongst them are said to be opposed to Jewish emancipation, and they will be again represented in Europe as full of passion and venom.

After having defended France against the language employed by the preceding speaker, and having expressed how much gratitude Roumania owed to that country for past favours, M. Bratiano denied that M. Boeresco had ever said that the Powers had asked for the wholesale ("en bloc") admission of Jews to citizenship. No such claim had ever been put forward by any Power, and, in conclusion, the Prime Minister begged of M. Voinov to join the majority of the Senate and thus present to Europe perfect unanimity on this question.

Inclosure 2 in No. 172.

Précis of a Speech of M. Bratiano, Prime Minister of Roumania, in the Chamber of Deputies, on , 1879, *on the Resolution recommending Amendment of Article 7 of the Constitution.*

M. BRATIANO commenced his speech by reproaching those who speak lightly of the Jewish question; he insisted that this is the most difficult and dangerous problem of a special and political character which Roumania has ever had to solve, and much more so than even the Peasant question which Prince Couza settled by cutting the Gordian knot in 1864.

He says further that this question had for years been a source of trouble and perplexity to Roumanian public men, and that its solution had become a necessity and a duty, not only by the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, but naturally by the force of time and of circumstances.

Europe cannot, however, expect that this intricate question should be settled with a dash of the pen. Such cannot have been the intention of the Plenipotentiaries at the Congress.

After this M. Bratiano gave a lengthened and elaborate statement of the centuries it took Europe to give full equality to Jews in other countries, and of the reasons why Roumania, acting as a buffer between Turkish invaders and Europe, was unable to make any progress in civilization, and he went on to explain some of the reasons which, in his opinion, have attracted an influx of Jewish immigrants into Roumania from neighbouring lands.

M. Bratiano shows that the evils produced by this immigration have by no means been reduced and remedied by the insertion of Article 7 in the Constitution. He related how that restrictive Article was opposed by him and his friends at the time in 1866, and had its origin with the same persons who are now, like M. Vernesco, seeking to limit the legislation which is to replace it, by voting a preamble to the present resolutions.

M. Bratiano says he is aware that the wholesale admission of all Jews in Roumania to political rights would be an evil; but no Power has put forward any such demand, nor could it be conceded, but by removing the stigma attaching to an exclusion of Jews, which savours of religious persecution, though due to other causes, the Roumanian Legislature will be able to grapple with this difficult problem and remove all such reproaches in a way securing all national interests.

M. Bratiano having been accused by M. Vernesco of having committed himself at Berlin to a line of policy admitting too fully Jewish claims both in his interviews with the chiefs of the Jewish Alliance and with Count Andrassy, replies to this that he saw the gentlemen directing the Israelite Alliance at Berlin, begged them in the interest of their co-religionists in Roumania not to exercise foreign pressure on their behalf. As to Count Andrassy, M. Bratiano said he could appeal to him with confidence that he had never been asked to give, and had never given him, any pledges on the Jewish question. In the only conversation he had with his Excellency on the subject, Count Andrassy said to him that though other Powers might not take into account its difficulties, he (Count Andrassy) as a neighbour of Roumania, knew and appreciated them but too well.

In conclusion, M. Bratiano made an appeal to union amongst all parties on this question, and exposed the dangers which accrue to all countries where party hatred goes so far as seeking the complete extermination of political adversaries.

No. 173.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 99. Secret.)
Bucharest, March 20, 1879.

My Lord,

COUNT ANDRASSY has, it appears, at the request of Prince Reuss, instructed the Austro-Hungarian Envoy at Bucharest, about a fortnight ago, most secretly, to speak to the Ministers here on two questions in which Prince Bismarck takes an interest in Roumania, and on which his Highness the Chancellor is supposed to have said that, not having a proper Representative at this Court, he was desirous to avail himself of the good offices of the Austro-Hungarian Minister.

The exact nature of the form of this extraordinary intervention is unknown to me, as I understand that Count Hoyos carried it out with the greatest secrecy and in a way which showed that he was rather perplexed and desirous to prove that his Government were merely acting officiously in the matter, and purely because Count Andrassy wished to oblige the Imperial German Chancellor at all times.

The two questions here referred to were the Jewish emancipation and the financial project about Roumanian railways known at Berlin and here by the name of the "Rachat" scheme.

As regards the first, the Roumanian Government answered, I believe, that they were quite in earnest in their desire to fulfil the obligations imposed on them by Article XLIV of the Treaty of Berlin, and pointed to the way in which they have set to work for the purpose of removing effectually every obstruction to religious inequality from the Constitution by amending Article 7.

On the subject of the "Rachat," Count Hoyos was, I hear, told, for the information of Prince Reuss, that the schemes propounded from Berlin (for there were two) were under consideration, but that so many important questions were requiring the immediate attention of the Finance Minister and of his colleagues that he must take some time before giving an opinion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 174.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 102.)
Bucharest, March 22, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to report to your Lordship by telegraph that the Chamber of Deputies adopted at once, on its second reading, after one day's discussion, the resolution amending in principle Article 7 of the Constitution by a majority of 64 against 12.

This second reading of the resolution took place in the Senate on the same day, viz., the 19th instant, but its adoption was not voted till the evening of the 21st instant, when the Senators for it were 45, and only 3 against it.

This delay of two days was occasioned by a discussion of certain resolutions on the subject of the composition of the Ministry, which were brought in by twelve Senators belonging to different elements of the Opposition, and which the Government considered as a vote of want of confidence.

I have explained the purpose of these resolutions, and inclosed a translation of them in a previous despatch. They were rejected by 32 votes against 20. But it must be observed that the division was by ballot, and that it is asserted that three Senators who are supporters of the Government made an error in voting, which would give 35 against 17.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 175.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 103.)
Bucharest, March 25, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have had a visit from M. Geshoff, a Bulgarian notable, sent by his East Roumelian countrymen on a mission to Europe. He brought me a private letter from Mr. Palgrave.

I will not trouble your Lordship with a repetition of the arguments employed by that gentleman in behalf of the objects of his mission, and of my replies to them. He impressed me as a person of great modesty, and anxious chiefly to avoid any occasion for a fresh effusion of blood south of the Balkans.

His aim appears to be to persuade the Powers not to sanction the presence of any Turkish garrison in Eastern Roumelia or the appointment of an Ottoman subject as Governor of that province.

I tried to explain to him that the best thing for the people of these districts was to try and enjoy in peace the many privileges conferred on them by the Treaty of Berlin, and not to provoke fresh troubles, which even the Russian Cabinet did not appear inclined to favour and could not be disposed to support by arms.

I believe that I produced some impression upon him, for though he made an appointment to see me again on the next day, he never returned. He asked me for a private letter of introduction for your Lordship, which I naturally declined to give him.

From what I gather, Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff's influence in Bulgaria is on the wane. As is but too often the case with ambitious foreign agents, he miscalculated the force of the elements at work at foreign Courts, and even at his own; he raised hopes amongst the Bulgarians which the Czar himself is not disposed to help in realizing; he favoured delay and procrastination in the Assembly at Tirnovo, and is now compelled by his instructions to accelerate the termination of those proceedings and the election of the Prince, and will have to leave the country a disappointed man, without even receiving that degree of gratitude from the people which he probably deserves for some of the benefits which he has actually conferred upon them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

P.S.—A copy of this despatch has been sent by me to Mr. Palgrave.

W. A. W.

No. 176.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 104.)
Bucharest, March 28, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a translation of a letter I have received, in Roumanian, without any date, from some Mussulman proprietors, complaining of the way in which they are treated by the Bulgarians.

This letter was posted at Ostrovo (Adakioy), in the Dobrudscha, and it is evident that the writers dwell close to Silistria, and possibly in that town itself; but they do not allege any particulars as to their grievances, and I am quite unable to take any action in this case, or even identify the persons who wrote it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 176.

Letter addressed to Mr. White by certain Mussulman Proprietors near Silistria.

(Traduction.)
Excellence,

LE temps et les événements ont apporté une guerre entre la Russie et la Turquie; vous connaissez assez ce que sont devenu les autres nations; depuis ce temps jusqu'à présent nous vivons dans la plus grande misère, et ce n'est qu'à cause de la persécution

qu'exercent les Bulgares chaque jour contre nous, en nous prenant nos bestiaux, nos biens, et en nous défendant de cultiver notre religion, et même notre vie est menacée. Si nous venons protester à votre Excellence contre ces persécutions et arbitrages c'est que nous sommes convaincus que votre Excellence ne voudra pas laisser une nation en souffrance et que vous êtes tenu à calmer les difficultés des souffrants.

Nous vous prions de vouloir venir à notre secours aussitôt que possible, pour que nous puissions vivre un peu mieux et avec une sûreté plus grande, car nous voyons nos confrères qui appartiennent à la Roumanie, malgré qu'ils soient séparés, ils jouissent pourtant de tous les droits de ce pays-là, possédant leurs biens, et leur vie est garantie.

(Signé) ISMAIL DE TARAGEA, *Propriétaire.*
(Et sept autres.)

No. 177.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 105. Very Confidential.)

Bucharest, March 28, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship conversations I have had with two gentlemen with reference to the Jewish question, within the last few days, which appear to me to indicate in a remarkable degree the difficulties with which M. Bratiano's Government has to contend in carrying out the views and wishes of the Powers that are pressing him.

On the 10th instant I reported that M. Jacobson, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, passes here for an authority on the Jewish question in Moldavia.

This gentleman, in speaking to me two days ago, alluded to the efforts of the "Alliance Israélite," and other Jewish Committees on the Continent, to give the largest possible extension to the acquisition of political rights by a large class of Jews in Moldavia.

When this had been attained, it would be comparatively easy for these bodies, with the capital and influence at their command, to facilitate a still larger immigration from the Polish districts of Russia and Galicia into Moldavia, and to assist persons of their creed in purchasing large tracts of land.

M. Jacobson is of opinion that Jewish communities are sufficiently organized to attempt the creation of a Judean State in Moldavia to the detriment of the aboriginal Roumans, if once they acquire a legal status in the province.

I need not add how much such a contingency, however unseasonable it appears to us, contributes to spread alarm and uneasiness in Moldavia, as it is being circulated and, unfortunately, too readily believed.

I have the honour to inclose an abstract of the Jewish and other births in different districts of this country in the year 1875, in the absence of all other statistical data; this return, derived from official sources, appears to me as deserving attention.

Unfortunately it establishes no distinction between foreign protected Jews and those who are indigenous. It shows, however, that the Jewish population is strongest in eleven Moldavian districts, and in these in towns.

The urban births in this portion of Moldavia were in 1875 as follows:—

Jewish births	4,497	About 47½ per cent.	
Births of Roumanian creed	4,531	„ 48	„
Of all other creeds	441	„ 4½	„
Total	9,469	100	

The other conversation I had was with M. Cogalniceano, in the house of the Austrian Minister, and in his presence.

M. Cogalniceano, since he retired from M. Bratiano's Ministry, endeavours to persuade the foreign Representatives that he is the only Roumanian statesman who is both willing and able to solve satisfactorily the Jewish question in his country.

Your Lordship will possibly remember that at the time of leaving office he succeeded somehow in making M. Waddington, and a few other Foreign Ministers, believe that it was on account of his views on the subject of Jews that he was quitting power.

Since that moment he has been constantly engaged in seeking to return to office, and is in communication with both parties, and with Electoral Committees in Moldavia.

I took this opportunity to ask M. Cogalniceano whether he saw any objection to the admission to citizenship of all such native Jews as had no foreign nationality or protection.

He at once, and without hesitation, declared that this would be impossible.

To my further inquiries he replied that the Jews of Spanish origin might be admitted as indigenous, but as to others, some further qualifications would have to be prescribed at first, such as service in the army, an educational test, and the like, but that, in the course of time, all these limitations would fall by themselves.

M. Cogalniceano added that no candidate for office could venture to say even thus much publicly without injuring his electoral prospects, and he stated his views to us confidentially.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 177.

STATEMENT of Births in Roumania in 1875.

In Eleven Districts in Moldavia.

	Jewish Creed.		Roumanian Creed.		All other Creeds.		Total of all Creeds.		Total of Creeds, Urban and District.
	Urban.	District.	Urban.	District.	Urban.	District.	Urban.	District.	
Bacau	228	222	824	3,870	82	1,214	629	5,306	5,935
Botostani	720	289	571	3,036	88	9	1,379	3,934	5,313
Dorotoni	577	220	237	3,087	6	9	820	3,316	4,136
Faltchiu	173	104	381	2,695	58	57	612	2,856	3,468
Jassy	1,903	218	1,224	3,297	128	36	3,255	3,551	6,806
Neamtu	368	135	369	3,338	5	64	742	3,537	4,279
Roman	218	116	250	2,446	47	814	521	3,375	3,899
Suceava	243	181	132	3,172	10	70	385	3,423	3,808
Tecuciu	19	101	300	3,580	12	36	331	3,728	4,059
Tutova	134	76	573	3,210	3	1	710	3,290	4,000
Vasluiu	119	108	161	3,608	2	0	282	3,755	4,037
	4,197	1,799	4,531	36,848	441	2,324	9,469	40,971	50,440

In remaining Nineteen Districts in Wallachia and Moldavia.

Ardgesu	53	..	419	5,020	41	..	513	5,020	5,533
Braila	192	5	1,295	2,977	102	2	1,589	2,984	4,573
Buzeu	40	..	723	5,801	22	..	786	5,801	6,587
Covurluiu	261	48	1,120	2,524	117	6	1,507	2,678	4,185
Dambovitza ..	15	1	366	5,331	3	..	384	5,332	5,716
Doljiu	66	..	1,084	7,572	48	..	1,198	7,572	8,770
Gorgiu	2	..	113	4,919	2	..	117	4,919	5,036
Jalomitza	7	3	307	4,819	7	2	321	4,824	5,145
Ilfov	612	3	4,477	7,637	516	34	5,605	7,674	13,279
Mehedinti	28	..	329	5,946	108	..	465	5,946	6,411
Muscel	..	..	332	2,848	7	..	339	2,848	3,187
Olta	6	..	180	3,275	6	..	192	3,275	3,467
Prahova	71	4	1,756	6,930	38	4	1,864	6,938	8,802
Putna	167	104	515	3,155	34	29	716	3,288	4,004
Romnic-Serat ..	51	..	343	3,508	3	..	397	3,508	3,905
Romanatzi	7	1	348	5,479	..	1	355	5,481	5,836
Televoroum	12	..	1,013	5,538	12	..	1,037	5,538	6,575
Valcea	3	..	353	4,774	10	3	366	4,777	5,143
Vlasca	17	..	514	5,300	18	1	549	5,307	5,856
	1,490	169	15,588	93,553	1,094	82	18,250	93,910	112,200

Total Number of Births in Roumania, 1875.

Of Jewish creed	8,065
Of Roumanian creed	150,034
Of all other creeds	3,941
Total births	162,040

No. 178.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 60.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March 26, 1879.*

M. DE GIERS, in a conversation with Mr. Plunkett to-day, informed him that he had received with great pleasure a telegram from Prince Tzeretelew, stating that an agreement had been come to by the Commission on all the Articles except three respecting territorial property, to which only the Turkish Commissioners object.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 179.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 63.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March 28, 1879.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No 46 of the 12th instant, I thought it advisable to draw the attention of the Russian Government to the accidental omission of the word "près" in the LVIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, and I accordingly addressed a note to Prince Gortchacow, copy of which is herewith inclosed, on the matter.

I have now the honour to inclose the answer which I have received from the Prince, in which his Highness agrees to the introduction of the word omitted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 179.

The Earl of Dufferin to Prince Gortchacow.

Mon Prince, *St. Petersburgh, March* $\frac{17}{29}$, 1879.

YOUR Highness is aware that by some oversight the text of the third paragraph of the LVIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, as signed by the Plenipotentiaries, differs by the omission of the word "près" from the Article as it was drawn up and agreed to at the last sitting but one of the Congress on the 12th of last July.

Count Schouvaloff, on his attention being afterwards called by M. de Radowitz to the omission, acknowledged that to the best of his recollection the words "près du" after the word "l'ouest" and before "village" in the place attributed to them in Article LVIII were positively accepted by the Representatives taking part in the discussion.

In the belief that the Imperial Government see no objection to the re-establishment of the text as originally framed, I think it right to place on record that the word "près" having been omitted entirely by accident should be considered as inserted in the text, and, therefore, that the latter part of the LVIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin should be understood to run as follows, viz.:—

"D'un point à l'ouest près du village de Kuracourgan la frontière se dirige sur Medjingert, continue en ligne directe vers le sommet de la Montagne Karsudagh et longe la ligne du partage des eaux entre les affluents de l'Araxe au nord et ceux du Mourad Sou au sud, jusqu'à l'ancienne frontière de la Russie."

I avail, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 179.

Prince Gortchacow to the Earl of Dufferin.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *St. Pétersbourg, le* 19 *Mars,* 1879.

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir la note de votre Excellence en date du $\frac{17}{29}$ de ce mois.

Elle relève une erreur de rédaction qui se serait glissée dans le troisième paragraphe de l'Article LVIII du Traité de Berlin et qui consisterait dans l'omission du mot "près" au passage désignant le village de Karaourgan comme point de départ de notre nouvelle frontière Asiatique dans la direction de Mendjingicert.

Votre Excellence demande le rétablissement de ce mot et s'appui à cet effet sur l'autorité de M. de Radowitz vis-à-vis duquel le Comte Schouvaloff aurait reconnu déjà à Berlin le bien fondé de l'observation en question.

Ne voyant pas d'inconvénient à admettre la correction que votre Excellence propose, je m'empresse de vous informer que le Cabinet Impérial y adhère pour sa part, et je saisis, &c.

(Signé) GORTCHACOW.

No. 180.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 67.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March 31, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of the note in which I have consigned the assurances your Lordship authorized me to convey to the Imperial Cabinet of the intention of Her Majesty's Government to impress the Porte with the necessity of respecting the new Constitution about to be granted to the inhabitants of Eastern Roumelia.

I also inclose copy of a note from the Chancellor reiterating the engagement of the Imperial Government to use every endeavour to induce the people of Eastern Roumelia to submit themselves peaceably to the authority of the Sultan.

Your Lordship will perceive Prince Gortchacow desires that the substance of these communications should be communicated to the Porte in writing.

I informed him that there had been no agreement between us to that effect, but that I did not imagine your Lordship would see any objection to a compliance with his wishes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 180.

The Earl of Dufferin to Prince Gortchacow.

Mon Prince, *St. Petersburgh, March* $\frac{17}{29}$, 1879.

I HAVE received the instructions of my Government to inform your Highness that they will direct Her Majesty's Representative at Constantinople to urge upon the Porte in the most energetic manner the necessity of at all times respecting and maintaining inviolate the administrative rights and privileges about to be granted to the Province of Eastern Roumelia under the Constitution now being elaborated by the European Commission.

I have also to express to you the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have received the assurance conveyed to me by your Highness, that the Imperial Cabinet will in no way countenance or protect the Bulgarian section of the Roumelian population in any opposition to the régime granted to the province under the Treaty of Berlin, but that, on the contrary, it will use all its influence in requiring them to submit themselves to the arrangements in question.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 180.

Prince Gortchacow to the Earl of Dufferin.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *St. Pétersbourg, le* 17 *Mars,* 1879.

J'AI reçu la note que votre Excellence m'a adressée en date du $\frac{19}{31}$ Mars et par laquelle elle m'annonce qu'elle a reçu pour instruction de m'informer que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique prescrira à son Représentant à Constantinople de peser

sur la Porte, de la manière la plus énergique, concernant la nécessité de respecter en toute circonstance et de maintenir inviolable les droits administratifs et les privilèges qui vont être octroyés à la province de la Roumélie Orientale, en vertu de la constitution actuellement élaborée par la Commission Européenne.

Le Cabinet Impérial prend acte de cette déclaration avec une vive satisfaction.

De son côté, aussitôt qu'il sera informé que le Représentant de la Grande-Bretagne à Constantinople aura reçu l'ordre de remettre la dite déclaration par écrit au Gouvernement Turc de manière à produire sur lui l'impression nécessaire, le Cabinet Impérial prescrira à l'Ambassadeur de l'Empereur à Constantinople une déclaration également écrite, conçue dans les mêmes termes que la déclaration Anglaise et ajoutant l'assurance que :—

"Si la partie Bulgare de la population de la Roumélie Orientale n'accepte pas paisiblement le régime autonome octroyé à la province en vertu du Traité de Berlin, elle ne pourra compter sur aucun appui de la part du Cabinet Impérial à son opposition, mais qu'au contraire il usera de toute son influence pour l'engager à se soumettre aux arrangements en question."

Les récents incidents de Slivno ont déjà témoigné comment les autorités Russes remplissent ce devoir.

En priant votre Excellence de vouloir bien porter cette information à la connaissance du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, je saisis, &c.

(Signé) GORTCHACOW.

No. 181.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 7.*)

(No. 69. Confidential.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, April* 1, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a memorandum of a conversation between Mr. Plunkett and M. de Giers.

Your Lordship will see that M. de Giers again intimates his impression that the prolongation of the Commission and the joint action of the Russian and English Governments in securing a Constitutional Administration in Eastern Roumelia, might have proved as effectual an instrument for the pacification of Roumelia as a mixed occupation.

Count Schouvaloff designates these optimist views of M. de Giers as "un rêve de berger."

In a subsequent conversation M. de Giers informed me that the news of the mixed occupation had acted upon the agitation in Bulgaria as a bucket of cold water.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 181.

Mr. Plunkett to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March* 27, 1879.

IN compliance with your Excellency's instructions, I called this afternoon upon M. de Giers, and stated that Prince Gortchacow had given you the impression of desiring that there should be a written record of the mutual engagements which had been taken by your Lordship and by his Highness respecting the pressure to be exercised upon the Turks and the Bulgarians respectively, with a view to induce them to accept loyally the results of the Treaty of Berlin.

M. de Giers replied that such a course seemed to him most advisable; he at once undertook to submit to Prince Gortchacow the draft which I had brought him of the note which your Excellency proposes to write, and he added that he had no doubt the Prince would be willing to address you a similar communication, giving the engagements taken by Russia, and taking cognizance of those given by Great Britain.

M. de Giers then inquired whether it was true that your Excellency had mentioned to Prince Gortchacow that the Marquis of Salisbury, while agreeing, under certain conditions, to the Russian proposal for a mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia, had instanced to M. de Bartholomei Bourgas and Ichtiman as places which might be garrisoned by the Turkish portion of the occupying forces.

I replied that your Excellency had told Prince Gortchacow that the Marquis of Salisbury, in accepting the proposal, on the condition that the other Signatory Powers should consent to it, had mentioned to M. de Bartholomei that he would not agree to the exclusion of the troops of the sovereign State; but that, in practice, Turkey might prefer placing her forces only on the frontier, at such places, for instance, as Ichtiman and Bourgas. I added that one of the objects of my visit to his Excellency this afternoon was to inquire whether any decision had yet been taken upon this very point.

M. de Giers said that your Excellency's observation about these two places had escaped the Chancellor's memory; that, however, Count Schouvaloff had mentioned it, and, consequently, there had been some informal conversation between them and Prince Gortchacow about it, but that no decision had been come to, as they did not consider the question had yet been put to them in such a manner as to require an answer.

In reply to my inquiry whether M. de Bartholomei had not reported Lord Salisbury's mention of the two places in question, M. de Giers read me two parts of the telegram received from the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, and said it contained no allusion to his Lordship's observations in this respect.

He then went on to admit that Bourgas was on the sea-coast; the Turkish troops could get there without passing through the province (this being the one great desideratum), and therefore there would probably be no difficulty in admitting them there; but, with regard to Ichtiman, it was different; to get there the Turkish troops would have to pass through the very populations whom their presence, it was feared, might exasperate; moreover, Ichtiman is in the interior of the province, and therefore it cannot be treated as a frontier post.

From the tone in which M. de Giers went on to speak of this question it is evident that he dislikes the idea of a mixed occupation at all. He professes to consider it as useless, after the engagements of England and Russia to keep the Turks and Bulgarians within the spirit of the Treaty of Berlin; but, if it be decided to have the occupation, he does not seem disposed to object to the Turkish forces occupying Bourgas.

With regard to the question of admitting the majority principle for deciding differences of opinion in the Commissions, he said the Russian Government would agree to it in all questions of mere detail, but not in questions of principle.

For instance, they would not agree to bow to the decision of the majority in the case of Arab-Tabia, in which they considered they had the spirit of the Treaty entirely on their side. The Treaty said the line of frontier was to be drawn "east" of Silistria. It would never have been supposed that this language was intended to justify the cutting off of the eastern end of the town itself, which is what, M. de Giers maintains, the majority of the Commission desire to do. By the word "Silistria" must have been meant all that combines to form that town, including its suburbs, slaughter-houses, &c.; this was the sense in which the word must be evidently taken, and, therefore, Russia, while she never would consent to the cutting off half of a city from the remainder, would nevertheless consent to accept the majority principle as regards any other line which the Commission might decide upon further east, and which would not entail such an impossible result.

M. de Giers said the Russian Commissioner for the delimitation of the Bulgarian frontier would start to-morrow, and he hoped to communicate to the Powers the instructions which Colonel Bogoluboff would take with him.

M. de Giers spoke very hopefully of the prospect of an understanding being soon come to between Great Britain and Russia, and he read me, with evident satisfaction, a telegram, which he had just received from Prince Tzeretelew, announcing that the European Commission in Eastern Roumelia had come to an agreement upon all points except three, to which Turkey alone still raised some objections.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 182.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 7.*)

(No. 70.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March* 28, 1879.

THIS morning Count Schouvaloff called upon me.

Referring to what had fallen from your Lordship in reference to Ichtiman and Bourgas in your conversation with M. Bartolomei, Count Schouvaloff argued that the understanding being that each of the occupying Powers should be represented by a single

contingent controlling a definite "rayon," to assign to the Turks a second rayon in addition to Bourgas would be more than the Porte was entitled to claim.

I observed that the Bourgas station represented Turkey's share in the mixed occupation, which did not interfere with her right to place a garrison in the Balkans.

To this Count Schouvaloff replied that Ichtiman could not be regarded as a Balkan or frontier garrison—at all events, until after the delimitation of the northern boundary of Roumelia had been determined. He further enlarged in a very earnest manner upon the chances of a collision which would attend the lengthy march of Turkish troops through the interior of the province, instancing the difficulty General Stolipine had had in rescuing M. Schmidt from the hands of Bulgarian mobs. I replied that I could attach no weight whatever to that argument; that if considerations of international policy required a Turkish garrison to be placed at Ichtiman, it was impossible to suppose that, the country being occupied by a strong European force for the express purpose of repressing a revolt, and the inhabitants being thus made clearly to understand that no opposition to the introduction of the new régime would be permitted, the mere conveyance across the country of a body of Turkish regulars to their legitimate destination would be attended by any inconvenience; and that a battalion bristling with bayonets was something very different from a solitary accountant, with a pen in one hand and a ledger in the other. But, I continued, though he could hardly expect the latter portion of his argument to prevail, I was quite sure your Lordship would be desirous of paying the most attentive consideration to every suggestion which might emanate from the Russian Government in reference to all these complicated questions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 183.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 72.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, April 1, 1879.*

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF read to me this morning, in the presence of the German Ambassador, two telegrams he had received from General Stolipine, expressing in a very earnest manner his fears of what might ensue were the Turkish contingent to be stationed at Bourgas, where, according to him, a fiercer anti-Turkish spirit prevails than anywhere else in the province. Count Schouvaloff added that, notwithstanding this unsatisfactory intelligence, the Emperor, having passed his word to me upon the subject, had informed his Ministers he would not withdraw it.

I observed, in reply, that your Lordship would, I was sure, be very unwilling to take an unfair advantage of anything which might have fallen from the Emperor in a hasty manner; and that I had not reported the intimation with which he had honoured me as a positive agreement. Her Majesty's Government would probably, indeed, still press the occupation of Bourgas by the Turks, but it would be upon the strength of the inherent advantages or necessities of the arrangement.

I subsequently observed that it was unreasonable to expect the Roumeliotes to act differently from other people in similar circumstances. A large force was about to be sent to the country for the express purpose of requiring submission to the authority of the Porte. His Majesty had promised to use his utmost exertions to engage the population to conform to the new régime, and under the combined moral and physical pressure of these precautions it was idle to talk of resistance on the part of the inhabitants.

This, however, was no reason for not inaugurating the mixed occupation under whatever conditions were most favourable to the success of the scheme and the satisfaction of all the interests concerned, and I would acquaint your Lordship with the nature of General Stolipine's representations and of the Emperor's feelings in regard to Bourgas.

In reference to the foregoing, I think it right to state that I have carefully refrained in all my conversations with Prince Gortchacow, Count Schouvaloff, and others, from implying that the Sultan had surrendered, or in any degree qualified, his right to send garrisons into the Balkans whenever it might be convenient for him to do so. Indeed, I have more than once alluded to such a contingency as being likely to occur before the year of mixed occupation shall have terminated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 184.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 73.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, April 2, 1879.*

LAST night I had the honour of dining at the Palace.

The Emperor touched upon the subject of Bourgas in the same terms as Count Schouvaloff had done in the morning.

I used to His Majesty language similar to that which I had held to the Count, as reported in my despatch No. 72 of yesterday's date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 185.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 74. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, April 2, 1879.*

I HAVE been endeavouring to ascertain what are the notions of the Russian Government in regard to the details of the mixed occupation scheme.

M. de Giers told me that they had not as yet worked it out; but I have gathered from Count Schouvaloff that it will take something of the following shape:—

The whole Province of East Roumelia to be divided into five rayons or circumscriptions to be severally placed under the guardianship of the five occupying Powers, England to be given the first choice of the districts in question.

Count Schouvaloff seemed to think that Philippopolis, Ichtiman, and the north-west section would be the rayon selected by England.

Russia would desire to occupy the north-eastern end of the Balkan frontier, so that her troops may be in communication with Varna, Turkey to be located in the south and south-west, Austria and Italy in the interior and along the east coast. There would also have to be a moveable force to be used for the protection of the Delimitation Commission.

With regard to the command of the troops, Count Schouvaloff's idea is that there should be no General-in-chief over the entire force; but that each contingent should be placed absolutely at the orders of the Turkish Governor-General, acting in concert with a majority of the Commission.

In this event, I imagine it would be necessary there should be attached to the Governor-General an able and conciliatory European Chief of the Staff.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 186.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 75.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, April 2, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith abstracts by Mr. Michell of four articles from the Russian press, giving the views taken by the different parties of the proposed mixed occupation in Eastern Roumelia.

1. From the "Golos," giving a strategical review of the position.

2. From the "Novoe Vremya" (the organ of General Ignatieff and his party), approving of the mixed occupation as affording excuse for keeping Russian troops there for another year, and thus giving a longer period for the seeds of Russification to take deeper root.

3. From the "Exchange Gazette," holding similar language, and—

4. From the "Sovremenoi Izvesti" (the ultra-Slavophil organ), taking a gloomy view of the concessions which have been made to Europe, and which financial exhaustion and national apathy have forced upon Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 186.

Opinions expressed by some of the principal organs of the Russian Press on the subject of the Mixed Occupation of Eastern Roumelia.

(Translation from the Russian.)

THE "Golos" of the $\frac{16th}{28th}$ March, 1879, says:—

". . . National and religious questions have never yet been decided by any compromise. One of these questions, from its very nature, is the Eastern question in general, and that of the Balkan in particular. It is, therefore, natural that the international or mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia should serve only as a means for the postponement of the solution of the Bulgarian question. It must be hoped that the time thus saved will be employed in preparing the way for the final organization of the fate of the Bulgarian people on a firm basis.

"A mixed occupation is the only solution to be found. It is only by this compromise that the necessary time can be saved.

"Our Vienna correspondent writes that according to private, but thoroughly reliable, information, the Powers who signed the Berlin Treaty have come to an agreement respecting the mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia by the troops of Russia, Austria-Hungary, England, Italy, and, 'perhaps,' Turkey.

"This 'perhaps' we understand in the sense of impossible. If a mixed occupation is a necessity in order to avert a collision between the Bulgars and the Mussulman, and as a guarantee that the exact fulfilment of the Berlin Treaty will not lead to the revival of the old order of things, then the participation of Turkish troops in the mixed occupation is out of place. This would at once destroy the significance of the mixed occupation by placing all the inhabitants of Bulgaria in a hostile position towards it. The Bulgars will naturally conceive the idea that the European States have sent their troops in order to establish Turkish rule in Eastern Roumelia.

"There is not even place in the mixed occupation for Turkish troops. If the Turkish contingent took up its position on the frontier of the Bulgarian Principality it would at once cause a rising of the latter; whereas its presence on Eastern Roumelian territory would be a violation of the spirit and letter of the Berlin Treaty. The participation of Turkish troops in the mixed occupation can only hasten the explosion of a national movement and place all the Powers, especially Russia, in an extremely false position.

"In order that the corps of occupation should fulfil its task, it is necessary that its numerical strength should be in excess of that of each of the belligerents, *i.e.*, that it should be stronger than the whole Roumelian militia, supported by the nation, and those Mussulman elements which may invade Eastern Roumelia without the Porte's sanction, in support of their co-religionists, as for instance the troops of the Albanian League. The corps should therefore number not less than 30,000 combatants, or, together with its auxiliaries, about 40,000 men. A corps of a less strength, say 10,000 men, will not be a military force capable of stopping at once any outbreak, but merely a military police force, barely sufficient to maintain order.

"It is impossible to maintain 40,000 men at the expense of Eastern Roumelia. It is hardly possible to reckon on obtaining on the spot Commissariat supplies, especially for the contingents of England and Austria, under the exceptional conditions of provisioning which exist in the armies of those two States.

"This, again, creates the necessity of each contingent securing a communication with its source of supplies and reinforcements; each contingent must possess its line of operation. As not one of the States taking part in the mixed occupation is directly contiguous with the frontiers of Eastern Roumelia, being separated from them either by Turkish territory, independent Principalities, or by neutral seas, the consent of the Porte and Principalities and the violation of the neutrality of the seas is necessary for the establishment of bases. In any case, each contingent will have to establish for itself a base, either on its own territory, as, for instance, Austria and Russia, if they will be permitted to carry their line of operation through Servia and Roumania, or at the sea-coast of the Ægean, the Sea of Marmora, and the Black Sea.

"Communication with Eastern Roumelia from the shores of the Adriatic is extremely difficult. The same may be said of the route by the Salonica-Mitrovitza Railway, and in all probability this road will be used only by the Austrians, whose real object is to take the Turkish position at Ratsii in the rear, and to establish themselves at Salonica. The greatest convenience is presented by the coast of the Ægean at the mouth of the Maritza, and in the vicinity of the railroad from Dédéagatch to Demotica. It will, therefore, not

be surprising if England profits by this opportunity, for not only entering the Black Sea, but for establishing herself on its shores somewhere in the vicinity of Constantinople. The points on the coast which might serve as a base for the Russian contingent may be Varna or Bourgas.

"The direction which the line of operation will take will depend on the order of distribution of the corps of occupation in Eastern Roumelia.

"The exigencies of administration, especially in economic respects, demand the grouping of the forces of each contingent. This entails the division of Eastern Roumelia into districts. In view of the various political interest of the States, the most prominent question for decision is the apportioning of these districts to the several contingents.

"It may be foreseen that Austria will strive hard to occupy the western part, near to the Mitrovitza-Salonica Railroad, and in the rear of the Turkish troops occupying the Novi-Bazaar district. In this way she will occupy a position for the attainment of which she has been propitiating Servia and Montenegro. England would readily occupy the eastern part, near to the Black Sea, so as to obtain the right of passage through the Bosphorus. She may easily consent to the southern part, side by side with the Turkish troops, thus affording a means of further protection to Constantinople. It would, of course, be most advantageous to Russia to occupy the Balkan passes, with a base at Varna, which, at the same time, would be satisfactory to the Bulgars. In the event of a national insurrection the Russian troops in the Balkans would be placed in a very difficult position, as they would bear all the responsibility of any participation of the Bulgarians in the affairs of Eastern Roumelia. It is only the Italian contingent that may be considered as representing a disinterested force, and it is therefore only natural that it should occupy a central position at Philippopolis, in the centre of the Civil and Military Administration of Eastern Roumelia.

". . . . It is necessary also not to diminish the importance which should be given to the preliminary decision of all the details of the occupation and those measures which shall secure its due termination. Without this is done a whole series of misunderstandings will be inevitable, which will receive additional asperity owing to the fact that such a strong Power as Germany remains with unfettered hands. But before entering into any details it is necessary to know in what position the Porte will stand in regard to the occupation if her contingent will not be permitted to form part of the corps of occupation. If she refuses to allow the establishment of bases and lines of operation on her territory, how is a mixed occupation to be carried out?

"The realization of the new compromise in the shape of a mixed occupation which defers the solution of the Bulgarian question, is of itself so complicated and subject to such accidents that it requires, perhaps, as much care and forethought as would the immediate solution of the Bulgarian, if not the Eastern, question."

The "Novoe Vremya" of the $\frac{18th}{30th}$ March, 1879, remarks:—

". . . . The attitude of the other States towards the Russian proposition is becoming elucidated. The Austrian semi-official press supports the project; England, as we are informed, makes her consent dependent on that of the Porte; and the latter, according to the Havas Agency, has accepted the Russian proposal. There is one reassuring circumstance in all these diplomatic negotiations, *i.e.*, the Russian troops will not quit Eastern Roumelia during this year. Supported by a military force, Russia's emancipatory policy may continue its work in the East, curbing the indiscreet attempts of her opponents, and thus securing peace for herself. The freedom which Russian blood has purchased for the Bulgars will not be placed under the control of Turkish Bashi-Bazouks nor under that of a European gendarmerie."

The "Exchange Gazette" of the $\frac{29th\ March}{10th\ April}$, 1879, says:—

"In any case, Russia's work is advancing. The Turkish power in Roumelia will apparently come to an end. The different States will tire of maintaining their troops in a disputed country; the cost will be great, besides which, it will be troublesome. Once the principle of the impossibility of maintaining Turkish rule in Roumelia is recognized, the rest comes of itself. The formation of one united Bulgaria is so simple, and settles the question so thoroughly, that although it may be deferred, yet in the end it is inevitable. A mixed occupation is an important step in that direction; a step necessitated by the force of circumstances, but which, nevertheless, is one of primary importance and signification."

The "Sovremenoi Izvesti," an ultra-Slavophil organ published at Moscow, takes the following gloomy and desponding view of the situation:—

"Moral reaction, financial exhaustion, added to different internal surprises of a

political nature, have completely diverted the attention of the public from foreign politics. We have cured ourselves of all expectations, we have crushed all our hopes and deadened our interest. We may safely say that the position of affairs in the Balkan Peninsula, and the negotiations respecting such position, although nearly affecting us, are followed with no greater attention than was devoted to the progress of the "Alabama" question or to the Dutch war in Borneo. The negotiations respecting the Balkan Peninsula now engage the interest of the public merely as an historical question and one merely of foreign history. And yet our brothers and children remain on the Danube, and questions touching our national honour and the national aspirations of centuries are hanging in the balance.

"Before and during the war we were repeatedly informed that an agreement between Russia and England was arrived at; but it is curious to know the form of the new agreement, which, as was always the case, will consist of concessions made by us to England. Lord Beaconsfield's Cabinet, as is known, has never yet made any concessions to us. Therefore, when we inquire into the character of the contemplated agreement, the answer expected is, What more does Lord Beaconsfield demand from Russia?—a demand which we, of course, will agree to. But in reality it is all the same whether Lord Beaconsfield himself takes the protectorate over Constantinople, or whether it will be intrusted to Austria, against which, in all probability, no obstacle will intervene, especially if Prince Bismarck wills it so. We Russians, with chilled hearts and deadened interests, will regard it good-naturedly. In reality there is nothing else to be done than to console ourselves, at least, with the idea that the logic of events remains in force. From the time that we arrested our march on Constantinople, admitting the English into the Sea of Marmora, and sanctioned the occupation of Bosnia by Austria, no other result could have been expected. We know that a reckoning must take place—perhaps late, but it must come. It is impossible to believe that history will recede, in spite of all laws, and that Russia will be converted for ever into a second-rate State owing to the diplomatic mistakes of one year."

No. 187.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 80. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Athens, March* 27, 1879.

M. DELYANNI told me yesterday that he had received from the Greek Representatives at Berlin and Vienna satisfactory news as regards the views taken by the Governments of Germany and Austro-Hungary respecting the pretensions put forward by Greece for the whole amount of territory which it considers the Congress of Berlin recommended should be ceded to it by the Porte.

The Greek Minister at Berlin had reported that when the Ottoman Representatives asked M. de Bülow what he thought of the line of frontier proposed by the Porte at Prevesa, and which led to the breaking off of the conferences, the latter answered that he considered it very inadequate to carry out the spirit of the recommendation of the Congress of Berlin, and expressed his opinion that the Turkish Government would do well to study carefully the "portée" of Protocol 13, as thus it might avoid "des graves inconvenients."

From Rome he said the accounts were less satisfactory, and the language held to the Greek Minister there by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Under-Secretary was not of the same character.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 188.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 83.)

My Lord, *Athens, March* 29, 1879.

THE statement contained in the telegram of the Albanian Delegates (copy of which was inclosed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 25 of the 13th instant), that the independence of Greece had been inaugurated by the expulsion of the Mussulman element, would lead to the supposition that the whole Mussulman population was forcibly driven out of Greece on that occasion. This was not, however, the case.

In the struggle between the two nationalities, wherever the Greeks were victorious

the Mussulman population was expelled; but in three districts—Attica, Eubœa, and Bœotia—which were in the power of the Ottomans at the close of the war, the inhabitants were allowed to remain in the country, protected by Greek laws, or leave it, at their option, with the power to dispose of their property, and eighteen months' time was allowed for them to do so; indemnities were also paid by the Greeks for loss of property incurred by the Mussulman inhabitants of these districts who chose to withdraw into Turkey.

There are several Mussulman communities still existing in Eubœa which have in no way been molested by the Greeks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 189.

Mr. E. F. Harrison to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 7.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 28, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that the Financial Reform Commission has agreed to recommend to the Porte that the administrative estimates shall be placed on a reduced scale, more in accordance with the means of the State.

The Commission have indicated the extent to which, in their opinion, it is absolutely necessary that these reductions should be carried.

In the amounts which have thus been arrived at it has been necessary to avoid proposing reductions which it would be impossible to carry out without an entire dislocation of the administrative organization.

The total of the estimate thus arrived at, without making provision for any portion of the debt of which the interest is now in abeyance, amounts to £ T. 15,324,000, or about £ T. 1,000,000 in excess of the estimated revenue of the year.

The estimate includes a sum of £ T. 2,400,000 which the Government has engaged to devote from the revenue for the redemption of the demonetized caimé. If this appropriation be left out of account the expenditure would be reduced to about £ T. 13,000,000, leaving about £ T. 1,500,000 for the future service of the debt.

The estimate, however, does not make adequate provision for some of the most urgent needs of the Administration.

The sum of £ T. 800,000 set down for the gendarmerie is quite insufficient for the force on the scale on which it is now being organized.

I proposed that the credit for this purpose should be £ T. 1,800,000.

The proposed credit for Public Works is also altogether inadequate, and no provision is made for the expense that must necessarily attend any large measure for the improvement of the administration of justice.

In some respects the estimate must be considered as provisional, and may be modified before it is submitted to the Porte.

It appears, however, to be clear that it is only as the result of improved administration that the means can be found of offering any terms of composition to the public creditor.

For the current year it appears to be hopeless to expect that any provision can be made for the general creditor; for the future, it does not seem unreasonable to think that one half of any revenue in excess of £ T. 13,000,000 might be made available for the service of the general debt, and that with good administration a large increase to the revenue might be eventually attained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. F. HARRISON.

Inclosure in No. 189.

STATEMENT of proposed Appropriation of Revenue.

	Dépenses Effectives en 1290.	Prévisions du Budget 1295.	La Commission propose que les Ministeres se contentent de
Dette extérieure	7,521,710	7,989,130	939,000*
„ générale	3,078,830	4,330,145	130,000†
„ nouvelle	60,055	1,214,175	687,290‡
„ simple	368,715	501,490	..
„ irrégulière	950,545	57,520	..
Divers	..	1,711,065	..
Retrait du caimé	..	..	2,400,000
Liste Civile	1,385,175	1,086,405	1,086,405
Evkaf	34,120	115,020	35,000
Pensions viagères	594,815	654,945	654,925
Successions	7,575	..	5,750
Divers	2,685	5,750	..
Finances	648,510	339,810	300,000
Archives	150,315	135,925	100,000
Contributions Indirectes	690,905	582,475	550,000
Mines	99,395	..	100,000
Forêts	32,175	321,655	50,000
Cadastre	..	111,400	111,400
Intérieur	2,262,515	2,210,995	1,500,000
Police	149,045	428,835	100,000
Gendarmerie des Provinces	..	2,071,550	800,000
Cheik-ul-Islam et Justice	454,500	656,170	450,000
Ecole de Médecine	..	42,035	..
Affaires Etrangères	159,665	158,050	130,000
Guerre	4,162,510	4,830,860	3,000,000
Artillerie	900,000	1,508,785	800,000
Marine	1,000,000	1,000,560	800,000
Commerce	6,290	46,040	20,000
Administration Sanitaire	62,710	73,810	73,810
Instruction Publique	89,530	118,170	100,000
Travaux Publics	78,546	78,365	100,000
Postes et Télégraphes	287,070	484,360	300,000
Garanties, Chemins de Fer	1,405,205	246,150	..
	26,548,045		
Dépenses extraordinaires de guerre . ..	799,455		
	27,348,070	33,271,825	15,329,580
Moins Dette Publique ajournée ..	..	12,838,880	
		20,432,945	

* Dettes garanties. † Emprunt forcé.

‡ Eshami Djedidié Schims, &c.

No. 190.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 193. Confidential.)

Vienna, April 1, 1879.

My Lord,

SIR H. DRUMMOND WOLFF has mentioned to your Lordship that a new French candidate for the post of Governor-General of East Roumelia has appeared in the person of M. Outrey. This is probably a gentleman who was First Dragoman to the French Embassy when I went to Constantinople, and your Lordship may perhaps wish to learn something about him.

He is an undoubtedly able man, of good manners and address, with a thorough knowledge of Turkey; but his character was so far from being held in esteem that the Ambassador often deplored to me the necessity of having to employ him.

He had been expelled with ignominy from the Military College of St. Cyr, and

while at Constantinople was understood to have found means to amass a considerable fortune by the means too often employed by Oriental Dragomans.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 191.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 194.)

Vienna, April 1, 1879.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship will have read Mr. Consul St. John's Reports from Ragusa of the discontent prevailing in the Herzegovina against the Austrian rule.

The explanation that has been given to me of it is precisely what would be expected by any one who had looked below the surface for the real cause of the insurrection which broke out four years ago, and which has led to all the complications by which we are still beset. It was then my duty to inform Her Majesty's Government that the movement was, in the main, an agrarian one. The peasants had to complain much less of the Ottoman administration than of the oppressive nature of the tenures under which they cultivated the soil, and had set their hearts upon the simple and radical remedy for their grievances, by securing the transfer to themselves of the lands belonging chiefly to Mussulman proprietors, which they had cultivated under many different forms of tenure.

Upon the termination of the Turkish administration they supposed that their aim had been attained, and that they would remain in full possession of the land they had hitherto occupied as tenants; but when they found the Austrian authorities indisposed to sanction a wholesale confiscation at the cost of the Mussulman proprietors, they complained that the rule of the Emperor was as oppressive as that of the Sultan.

There is probably much truth in the above explanation of the discontent among the Christian peasantry, and it will certainly be found that the settlement of the land question is not as simple a matter as it was held to be while the province remained under the administration of the Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 192.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 195. Confidential.)

Vienna, April 1, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Austrian Government learnt with much satisfaction that M. Fournier was about to leave Constantinople, and that the preparations for his departure were such as to make it appear that he did not expect to return. Great confidence is expressed in the wish of M. Waddington to go cordially with England and Austria in carrying out the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, it being believed that the Chargé d'Affaires will act more fully according to the instructions of his Government than M. Fournier has lately shown himself disposed to do, and that there will be a cessation of the attempts to instil into the suspicious mind of the Sultan an apprehension of some perfidious designs on the part of this country.

The newspapers having announced the probability of Caratheodory Pasha being shortly replaced by Essad Bey, the Sultan's Ambassador here, who has just presented his letters of recall and is on the point of starting for Constantinople, I may state that if the news turns out to be true, it will be far from unwelcome to the Imperial Government.

Count Andrassy, as I have before observed, must be too conscious of having given Caratheodory Pasha just ground of complaint in the matter of the secret Berlin Memorandum, to be well disposed towards him, and he attributes to his Excellency personally many of the difficulties that have impeded the conclusion of the Novi-Bazar Convention.

He has, on the other hand, a good opinion of the honesty and moderation of Essad Bey, and, without looking upon him as a strong man, would not be sorry to see him at the

head of the Turkish Foreign Office, though I am myself by no means confident of his finding him more accommodating and less distrustful of Austria than his predecessor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 193.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 197.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 1, 1879.*

COUNT ANDRASSY having been informed by M. Novikow, as far as I understood, that Russia had agreed that the Porte should furnish a contingent for the mixed occupation under an arrangement which Her Majesty's Government considered satisfactory, he asked me if I could tell him whether the statement was correct.

I said that I had no information on the subject, but Her Majesty's Government had declared from the first that if there was to be a mixed occupation the Turks must take part in it, and the Russian Government must be aware that this decision would be maintained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 194.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 198.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 2, 1879.*

MR. KIRBY GREEN having reported to your Lordship that the Austrian and Russian Representatives at Cettigné justified the refusal of the Prince of Montenegro to accept a Turkish Consul at Podgoritza, I have spoken on the subject to Count Andrassy, who, previous to the evacuation of that place, had said that he considered the Porte to have a right to have an Agent as Consul there.

His Excellency replied that he understood the Prince to have objected not so much to the appointment of a Consul as to the person whom it had been proposed to name.

It is not considered that the Prince's intention of temporarily confiding the protection of his interests at Constantinople to the Russian Ambassador can be objected to on principle, though the arrangement is not a satisfactory one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 195.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 199.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 2, 1879.*

ESSAD BEY told me this afternoon that he had received information convincing him of the absolute certainty of the outbreak of an insurrectionary movement in the Turkish provinces as soon as the Russians had evacuated them. Upon my saying that it was the probability of such an occurrence and the hope of averting it which had led to the proposal of a mixed occupation, he declared that we should be deceiving ourselves if we expected it to have that effect, though he believed the movement would take place less in East Roumelia than in Macedonia, where everything for it had been organized under foreign leaders, some of whose letters, showing how complete their preparations were, he had himself seen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 196.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 200.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 2, 1879.*

ESSAD BEY, in speaking to me this afternoon of the case of Osman Bey, who has been sentenced by the Russians to transportation for life to Siberia, said that, however outrageous the proceeding might be, there was nothing in it that surprised him, for he was already aware of the fact of considerable numbers of Turkish subjects having been treated in a similar manner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 197.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 201.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 2, 1879.*

HAVING asked Baron Orczy whether he was aware of 70,000 caps having been ordered at Vienna for the revolutionary or "gymnastic" societies of Eastern Roumelia, as mentioned in Sir Henry Drummond Wolff's telegram of the 21st ultimo, his Excellency said that it had been reported that a number of caps even greater than what I had mentioned had been ordered, but that they were for the Bulgarian militia, and not intended for Eastern Roumelia. He did not, however, believe that such an extensive order could have been received at Vienna without the Government hearing of it, which as yet they had not.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 198.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, April 7.)

(No. 57.)
Sir, *Buda-Pesth, April 2, 1879.*

AS the rumours of an understanding between the parties to the Berlin Treaty on the mixed occupation question obtain more and more credence with the public, the Hungarian press in general has commenced the discussion of the expediency of such a step. Those newspapers which invariably support the Government have expressed themselves in favour of it, but the independent and opposition journals attack it vehemently.

The "Pester Lloyd" takes part with the latter, and argues that Russia has succeeded in bringing about the practical execution by all the Powers of the "coercion policy" under another name. That, moreover, such a step sets the fatal precedent of a departure from the Treaty of Berlin, of which Russia will certainly take advantage. That the the principle regarding East Roumelia established by the Treaty being the reinstalment of direct sovereignty of the Porte over that province, the decision of the Powers to send foreign troops to occupy it is a proof that they consider that principle impracticable in execution. That it is useless to expect that the inhabitants of East Roumelia will be better disposed at the end of the mixed occupation than they are now, and that it is as well, therefore, that it should be clearly understood that the arrangement now proposed will be undertaken merely to afford time for deciding upon some permanent substitute for the direct political and military authority of the Sultan contemplated by Article XIII of the Treaty.

As leaders in the "Pester Lloyd" are as often as not written to order, and as the editor of the paper is known to be on the best of terms with Count Andrassy, I think it as well to draw your Excellency's attention to the article which I have thus analyzed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 199.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 204.)
Vienna, April 3, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 193 of the 26th ultimo, inclosing copies of despatches from Mr. Gould on the subject of the graduated income tax which has recently been imposed upon natives and foreigners resident in Servia, I have the honour to inform you that the Austro-Hungarian Government have already sent instructions to their Minister at Belgrade in the sense and almost in the words of Mr. Gould's protest to M. Ristich, of which he transmitted a copy to your Lordship in his despatch No. 4, Consular, of the 4th ultimo; and that they are quite determined not to allow this newly-enacted law to have any force as regards their own subjects, it being manifestly an injustice done to their interests as well as a breach of Article XXXVII of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 200.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 207. Confidential.)
Vienna, April 4, 1879.

My Lord,

IN conversation with Count Andrassy yesterday I alluded to the wish that seemed to be entertained by Prince Gortchacow to debar the Porte from the right of sending troops into East Roumelia without having previously consulted the Representatives of the Great Powers.

He declared with vehemence that if such a proposal were ever to be made to him he would strenuously resist it.

A capital, perhaps a fatal error, had been committed at Berlin by weakening the authority of the Sultan in East Roumelia by the exclusion of his troops from the province except when disturbance of the public peace was anticipated; but the ill effects of this arrangement had been at least diminished by the faculty left to the Porte, or rather to the Governor-General, of deciding when the aspect of affairs was such as to render the presence of a regular Ottoman force necessary, and it would be a lamentable mistake to deprive the Turkish Government of this sole remaining security for their authority.

His Excellency went on to observe that if the Russian Government were to make any such proposal, he thought we might be confident of it not being supported by Prince Bismarck, who, although he had no doubt constantly advocated the Russian interpretations of the Treaty, had never shown an inclination in favour of an abandonment of its direct provisions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 201.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 208.)
Vienna, April 4, 1879.

My Lord,

COUNT ANDRASSY has been informed that the Turkish Government have sent a Circular to their Representatives abroad amounting practically to a rejection of the proposal for a mixed occupation.

No such communication had yet been made to him, but if, as he was inclined to believe, the Porte supposed that the Powers might send troops to assist it if serious troubles were to break out, he must observe that there might be good grounds for their hesitating to do so.

It was one thing to send a small contingent, the moral effect of which would probably be sufficient to prevent a movement, and a very different one to send it for the purpose of taking part in suppressing an insurrection actually going on.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 202.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 209. Confidential.)
Vienna, April 4, 1879.

My Lord,

COLONEL RIPP, the Austro-Hungarian Bulgarian frontier Commissioner, left Vienna for Constantinople two days ago.

Count Wedel, one of the Military Attachés to the German Embassy here, has been appointed German Commissioner in the place of Colonel Scherff, and was summoned to Berlin last week. He is not an Engineer officer, but has always been regarded with favour by the Emperor William; and if his late chief, Prince Reuss, has been able to inspire him with his own sentiments, he is not likely to be found acting with the impartiality that distinguished his predecessor. Upon the technical questions which will come before the Commission his opinion will be of little value, and this may perhaps have been one of the reasons that dictated his being selected, if it is intended that he should be more of a coadjutor to the Russian Commissioner than an agent acting on his own judgment.

From a personal acquaintance with him, I can speak of Count Wedel as a gentlemanlike man, whom General Hamley will find a pleasant colleague.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 203.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 198. Most Confidential.)
Berlin, April 4, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE been confidentially informed that the German Government has finally agreed with those of Russia and Austria to promote as far as possible the election of Prince Battenberg, in preference to that of any other candidate for the Throne of Bulgaria.

The election is a good one. Prince Battenberg appears to be admirably qualified for the post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 204.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 25.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, April 6, 1879.*

RESOLUTION for amending Article 7 finally adopted in third and last reading last night by seventy-two against thirty-three in the Chamber and by forty against six in Senate. Prince Charles closed Session himself with speech to-day noon. Dissolution follows at once. Unlike Servia, no further Session can be held in Roumania until revision. Chambers have decided on proposed constitutional amendment.

No. 205.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April 6, 1879.*

SECRETARY of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission believes that no Commissioner has been yet appointed by the German Government to succeed Colonel Scherff. He expects all the other Commissioners before the 15th instant.

No. 206.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(? No. 303. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 6, 1879.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 295 the Grand Vizier has told me that he had yesterday evening a long conversation with the Sultan, in which he ultimately obtained a promise that His Majesty would not in future exile persons without the previous consent of the Grand Vizier and Government.

No. 207.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 136. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April* 6, 1879.

AUSTRIAN Commissioner called on me to-day unexpectedly, and, in conversation, suggested that the occupation should devolve on England and Austria alone under the supervision of the Commission. I did not attach particular significance at the time to his words, but since seeing your telegram to Mr. Malet I think I ought to mention the circumstance.

The idea of Italy was suggested to me by Torey. I do not think he did so unadvisedly.

No. 208.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 304.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 7, 1879.

FOLLOWING from Consul at Philippopolis, dated yesterday:—

Emigration of Turks has begun, owing to systematic outrages by Bulgarians during the last four days and nights. The Turkish population of the villages have to flock into Tartar-Bazar and Philippopolis for the same reason. The renewal of persecution of Turks is evidently due to a "mot d'ordre."

No. 209.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 135.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 7, 1879.

THE French Commissioners have just called and told me that they know that the Russians, with view of creating a dilemma, intend evacuating suddenly and abruptly on the 3rd May.

Any interregnum might be productive of grave consequences.

No. 210.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 7, 1879, 6 A.M.

TURKEY has declined to assent to mixed occupation. Italy in insisting, as a condition that all seven Powers shall participate, practically refuses also. The conditions, therefore, on which the English assent was given have not been fulfilled. It is possible, though not certain, that further pressure may induce both Powers to assent. I doubt whether Italy would agree unless England paid her expenses. At Constantinople Ministers are divided, but the section opposed to occupation is highest in Sultan's favour, and Grand Vizier's position is precarious.

As matters now stand Her Majesty's Government are much less sanguine as to the opportuneness of a mixed occupation than they were Stolipine's speech to Braunschweig, as reported by Wolff, shows that Panslavist agents will make efforts to raise insurrection against the occupying contingents. Fournier's parting blow is a fact of capital importance. It will be known in Roumelia that he was opposed to the occupation, and through Coutouly he has established a considerable sentimental influence there. Encouraged by Fournier and Stolipine the Roumeliots will refuse to look on a force of Russians, Austrians, and English as representing Europe, especially as the Russians will incite them to resist the other two, and the agitators may bring about a rising.

In that case the small contingent proposed will obviously be much too small. Russians and Austrians will introduce larger forces; England, to avoid humiliation, must do the same; and, indeed, if there be serious trouble, the English forces, which would be the most unpopular, would run risk of insult if their number were small.

This would involve exertions which Her Majesty's Government are not prepared to undertake. The military difficulties of it would be formidable, as they would be acting with allies of doubtful loyalty. The Russians could not be relied on, and the Austrian troops, if they happened to be Slavs, would not be trustworthy. All military critics here and at Constantinople are against the measure. Her Majesty's Government conclude that if a serious insurrection has really been prepared by the Russian Agents, and will receive unauthorized French encouragement, the work of actual repression must be done by Ottoman troops, according to the Treaty, acting in the province, if a Governor has been named; acting on the frontiers if he has not. Her Majesty's Government are willing to concur in any arrangements for securing that this repression shall be accomplished with the least possible suffering to the population. But in the existing state of affairs, if there is an insurrection, the military rights of Turkey under the Treaty must be fully enforced.

This telegram is to place your Excellency confidentially in possession of the views of the Cabinet. To the Russians you should urge my alternative of Wednesday, especially the nomination of Governor. Mixed occupation must remain in the background for the present, as the conditions of it are far from being fulfilled.

No. 211.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 7, 1879, 7·45 P.M.

GREEK question is assuming serious proportions. If allowed to drag on it may become very dangerous to Turkey. Powers are consulting on Greek Circular. Both Germany and France are anxious for united mediation. Her Majesty's Government will not be able to refuse their concurrence. Porte will be compelled to yield to mediation, for both Germany and Russia have expressed willingness to send ships into the Mediterranean for the purpose. Powers will then insist on much more than they will now accept.

If Porte will now place matter in hands of Her Majesty's Government we are confident that we can save the towns of Larissa and Janina, and we have very good authority for that belief. But the matter must be placed absolutely in our hands. If the Porte refuses this proposal, we will not be responsible for the result. The mediation will go on, and the Porte must deal with the six Powers as it can. But we earnestly warn it of the danger of longer delay.

Convey this message both to Sultan and Grand Vizier, and enforce it as strongly as you can.

No. 212.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 167. Secret.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April* 7, 1879.

YOUR Excellency will have learned from my telegram of this day that the Porte has declined to assent to the proposal for a mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia, and that Italy insists upon the condition that all seven of the Signatory

Powers shall participate in furnishing a contingent, which practically amounts to a refusal of her assent. It follows, therefore, that the conditions upon which Her Majesty's Government have signified their willingness to take a part in such a measure have not been fulfilled. It is indeed possible, though not certain, that both the Porte and Italy might be induced to yield under further pressure, but I doubt whether the latter would agree unless the expenses incurred by her were paid by England. At Constantinople the Ministers are divided in their opinions; but the section which is opposed to occupation stands the highest in the Sultan's favour, and the position of the Grand Vizier is precarious.

Her Majesty's Government are much less sanguine than they were, as matters now stand, as to the opportuneness of a mixed occupation. Sir H. Drummond Wolff reports that M. de Braunschweig has been informed by General Stolipine that the Bulgarians will now be contented with nothing less than annexation, and he hinted that even a mixed occupation would fail to prevent an insurrection on the departure of the Russians, thus showing that Panslavist Agents will make efforts to raise opposition to the occupying contingents. The success of M. Fournier before leaving Constantinople in dissuading the Porte from acquiescing in the project of a mixed occupation is a fact of capital importance. It will be known in Eastern Roumelia that he was opposed to the occupation, and he has, through M. Coutouly, contrived to establish a considerable sentimental influence there.

The Roumeliotes, encouraged by M. Fournier and General Stolipine, will refuse to look on a force composed of Russians, Austrians, and English, as representing the wishes of Europe, especially as they will be incited by the Russians to resist the troops of the two other Powers, and the agitators may bring about a rising.

In that case the small contingents which it is proposed should be sent will obviously be quite insufficient for the emergency. The Russians and the Austrians will therefore wish to introduce larger forces, and England, in order to avoid humiliation, will be compelled to do the same. Indeed, in the event of serious troubles, the English forces, which would be the most unpopular in the country, would run the risk of insult if their number were small.

Her Majesty's Government would thus be involved in greater exertions than they are prepared to undertake for the object in question. The military difficulties they would have to meet would be formidable, as they would be acting in dependence on allies of doubtful loyalty. No reliance could be placed on the Russian troops, while the Austrians, if they happened to be Slavs, would not be trustworthy. All military critics, both here and at Constantinople, are opposed to the measure.

Her Majesty's Government conclude, if a serious insurrection has really been prepared by the Russian Agents, which will receive an unauthorized encouragement from the French that the work of actual repression must be carried out according to the Treaty by Ottoman troops, who would act within the province if a Governor-General has been named, and on the frontiers if he has not.

Her Majesty's Government are willing to concur in any arrangements which will secure that the repression of any outbreak shall be accomplished with the least possible suffering to the population. But in the existing state of affairs, if there is an insurrection the military rights of Turkey under the Treaty of Berlin must be fully enforced.

The opinions set forth in this despatch have been communicated to your Excellency by telegraph, in order to place you confidentially in possession of the views of the Cabinet. But in your communications with the Russian Ministers you should urge upon them the alternative proposal contained in my telegram No. 8 of the 2nd instant, especially the nomination of a Governor-General. The question of a mixed occupation must remain in the background for the present, as the conditions attached to it are far from being fulfilled.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 213.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 497.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 7*, 1879.

THE Greek question being allowed to remain unsettled is beginning to assume very serious proportions, and if allowed to drag on it may become very dangerous to

Turkey. The Great Powers are now consulting upon M. Delyanni's Circular of the 21st ultimo.

The Governments of Germany and France appear to be anxious for the united mediation of all the Powers, and Her Majesty's Government will not be able to refuse their concurrence should it be proposed to them. Both Germany and Russia have expressed their willingness to send ships into the Mediterranean for the purpose of compelling the Porte to yield to mediation, and it will therefore be powerless to resist such a pressure; but if matters are allowed to proceed to this extremity the Powers will certainly insist upon greater sacrifices being made by the Ottoman Government than they are now disposed to accept.

I have to instruct you to represent the present aspect of this question both to the Sultan and to the Grand Vizier; and you will, at the same time, state to them that Her Majesty's Government are confident that if it is now placed in their hands they will be able to preserve for the Sultan the towns of Larissa and Janina; but they must be allowed to deal with it absolutely.

If this proposal is declined by the Porte Her Majesty's Government will not be answerable for the ultimate issue. The mediation will then inevitably proceed, and the Porte will have to deal with the Six Powers as it best can.

You will not omit to impress upon the Sultan and the Grand Vizier in the most earnest manner possible the serious danger they are incurring by further delay in coming to an arrangement with Greece at the present juncture.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 214.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 453.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April 7*, 1879.

AT an interview which I had with the French Ambassador on the 29th ultimo, his Excellency, in speaking of the views of France upon the question of a mixed military occupation of Eastern Roumelia, called my attention to the fact that France had, indeed, reserved her liberty to abstain from sending a contingent, but had not said that she would not do so.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 215.

Major Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 8.)

(No. 18.)
My Lord, *War Office, April 8*, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, after an attentive study of the papers on Khotour which accompanied your Lordship's despatch No. 14 of the 28th March, that there are certain points upon which discussions may be raised, and upon which, therefore, it appears desirable to seek now your Lordship's instructions rather than, perhaps, have to make references from remote parts of Asia Minor.

In Article LX of the Treaty of Berlin it is stipulated that the Porte cedes to Persia the town and territory of Khotour as fixed ("tel qu'il a été déterminé") by the Mixed Anglo-Russian Commission for the delimitation of the frontiers of Turkey and of Persia.

The boundaries of Khotour have, however, as a matter of fact, never been defined. The nearest approach to a demarcation of the frontier was in a line agreed upon by Sir Arnold Kemball and the Russian Delegate as representing a compromise of conflicting interests, and which line they intended submitting to the Turkish and Persian Commissioners as a basis upon which a final adjustment was to be made. The outbreak of the Servian war put an end to any further negotiations on this subject, and the frontier line, although drawn on their respective maps, was never submitted by the foreign delegates to the Porte or to Persia.

It is possible, however, that Count Schouvaloff had cognisance of this suggested frontier line when he made use of the expression "tel qu'il a été déterminé."

And in the Protocol it was recorded "that, from the observations exchanged between Count Andrassy, Lord Salisbury, Caratheodory Pasha, and Count Schouvaloff, the boundary proposed for Khotour was identical with the one laid down some years back by the Anglo-Russian Commission."

The expression "some years back" removes the time to a period antecedent to the outbreak of the Servian war in 1876, which only happened two years before the Berlin Congress.

But as it is possible that the Russian Commissioner on the Boundary Commission may advocate an interpretation of Article LX in the above-mentioned sense, it seems desirable to be prepared beforehand.

Sir Edward Hertslet is of opinion that the territory ceded to Persia under Article LX is the whole of the district which was invaded after the signature of the Treaty of Erzeroum in 1847. Sir Arnold Kemball is, I understand, of the same opinion, and, certainly, after a careful reading of those papers, which have been sent to me, it seems difficult to arrive at any other interpretation.

But as Sir A. Kemball, in his despatch No. 9 of the 6th November, 1878, recommends for the consideration of the Porte, in addition to the retrocession of Khotour, the adoption of the line traced by the foreign delegates to the Commission as the result of their private deliberations for defining the common boundary of the two countries, Her Majesty's Government might consider it expedient to recommend the joint line of Sir A. Kemball and his Russian colleague as the one to be adopted for Khotour.

Under these circumstances, as the Article in the Treaty is ambiguously worded, I have the honour to solicit your Lordship's instructions if I should interpret the Treaty as referring simply to a retrocession of the territory forcibly and unjustly seized by Dervish Pasha in violation of the *status quo* agreed upon by the Treaty of Erzeroum, or if I should propose, or lend my co-operation in support of, the provisional acceptation of the line agreed upon by Sir Arnold Kemball and his Russian colleague.

There being no documents before me to show what was the amount of territory seized on that occasion by Dervish Pasha, and not having as yet seen the map upon which Sir A. Kemball laid down his line,* I am unable to offer an opinion as to which interpretation would be most favourable to Turkey, and therefore to British interests.

2. The next point upon which I would beg your Lordship's instructions is as to the position of the Persian Delegate during the deliberations of the Commission. The Persians apparently assume that their Representative and the Turkish member are on the same footing, as is shown in the letter of Mohsin Khan to Saïvet Pasha: "Il est évident par conséquent que les Commissaires de nos deux pays devront, de concert avec ces Délégués, s'occuper sur place de la délimitation des frontières de ce district (Kholour), &c." But it is a question if this position can be maintained, and if the Persian Representative has any *locus standi* on the Commission at all as an arbitrator. Is he not rather in the position of the Roumanian Delegates at the demarcation of the Roumano-Bulgarian frontier in European Turkey? If such be the case, his pleas would be heard and taken into consideration, but he would have no voice in the final arbitration on the boundary.

3. The next question I would beg to submit for your Lordship's consideration is my general bearing towards Persia. Is it the wish of Her Majesty's Government that the Treaty should be interpreted liberally towards Persia, or, on the other hand, do they wish to mark their dissatisfaction or displeasure by giving the least possible amount of territory to that Power as is consistent with a just but rigid appreciation of her claims?

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

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* This map is deposited in the Embassy at Constantinople, and Major Clarke proposes to search for it and send home a copy for the use of the Foreign Office.

No. 216.

Caratheodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, April 8.*)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 7 Avril*, 1879.

DANS sa séance du 2 Avril, l'Assemblée Bulgare de Tirnova a voté, sans tenir compte des objections de la Sublime Porte, les trente-six premiers Articles du Projet de Règlement Organique présenté par le Prince Dondoukoff.

En présence de ce vote, nous avons cru devoir autoriser Pertew Effendi à adresser une protestation officielle à M. le Commissaire de Russie contre l'adoption des Articles 1, 2, 3, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34. Les deux premiers de ces Articles confèrent aux Assemblées Bulgares le droit de changer les limites de la Principauté contrairement aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin qui fixe ces limites d'une manière définitive et irrévocable. Les Articles susmentionnés déclarent que la Principauté est une monarchie héréditaire et règlent les conditions dans lesquelles doit s'exercer ce droit d'hérédité dans la famille du Prince. Toutes ces dispositions sont absolument contraires à l'Article III du Traité de Berlin qui, après avoir établi que le Prince de Bulgarie sera librement élu par la population et confirmé par la Sublime Porte, prescrit qu'en cas de la vacance de la dignité Princière l'élection du nouveau Prince se fera aux mêmes conditions et dans les mêmes formes.

Je vous prie de porter ce télégramme à la connaissance du Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité.

No. 217.

Musurus Pasha to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 8.*)

My Lord, *Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le 7 Avril*, 1879.

EN me référant à la conversation que j'ai eue avant-hier avec votre Excellence relativement à la créance de la Sublime Porte provenant des avances faites à la Commission du Danube par le Trésor Impérial, afin de faciliter et de hâter les travaux exécutés sur toutes la longueur du bras de Soulina, j'ai l'honneur de transmettre ci-joint à votre Excellence copie de la dépêche que j'ai reçue de mon Gouvernment sur ce sujet, et dont j'ai donné lecture à votre Excellence dans notre dernière entrevue.

J'ai, &c.
(Signed) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 217.

Caratheodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le 26 Mars*, 1879.

LA Commission Européenne du Danube, durant sa dernière Session, avait été appelée à s'occuper de la créance de la Sublime Porte provenant des avances faites à la Commission du Danube par le Gouvernement Impérial afin de faciliter et de hâter les travaux exécutés sur toute la longueur du bras de Soulina.

Notre Commissaire, Constantin Effendi Caratheodory, avait attiré l'attention de ses collègues sur l'opportunité de procéder au remboursement de ces avances au moyen de paiements partiels que la situation du fonds de réserve rendrait possible. Cette question n'ayant pu être résolue dans le cours de la dernière Session, sera reprise dans la Session prochaine par le Commissaire Impérial, qui recevra les instructions de la Sublime Porte à cet effet.

En prévision de la délibération dont la demande du Gouvernement Impérial devra faire l'objet, il est nécessaire que les Gouvernements représentés à la Commission Européenne du Danube soient à l'avance éclairés sur l'origine et le caractère de notre créance et sur les raisons que nous croyons devoir invoquer pour en solliciter la prompte liquidation.

Aux termes de l'Acte Public du 26 Mars, 1866, les avances faites par la Sublime Porte devaient être amorties au moyen du produit de la taxe, après déduction de l'annuité consacrée au remboursement des emprunts contractés par la Commission et des frais d'administration et d'entretien des travaux et établissements. Il résulte de

cette disposition qu'aucun fonds de réserve ne devait être constitué qu'après l'accomplissement des obligations ci-dessus, et seulement pour faire face aux frais de prolongement des digues de Soulina.

Cependant la Sublime Porte consentit, à la date du 2 Novembre, 1869, à ajourner jusqu'au 30 Juin, 1883, l'amortissement régulier de sa créance, qui, à partir de cette date, devait s'effectuer par paiements semestriels de 90,000 fr. au minimum; sous la condition expresse que la Commission Européenne du Danube effectuerait à la Sublime Porte, lorsque son fonds de réserve le lui permettrait, des remboursements partiels sur le capital en dehors de l'amortissement semestriel et sans y préjudicier.

Ces diverses dispositions n'ont point été observées vis-à-vis de la Sublime Porte, puisque, d'une part, un fonds de réserve s'élevant aujourd'hui à une somme importante a été constitué contrairement aux dispositions de l'Article 15 de l'Acte Public sans qu'aucune partie en ait été détaché au profit de la créance Ottomane.

Ce fonds suffirait aujourd'hui à éteindre le solde de l'emprunt Bischoffsheim, qui n'est plus que de 50,000 livres sterling environ, et à payer en même temps à la Sublime Porte un premier et fort acompte sur sa créance. C'est pourquoi la Sublime Porte exprime l'espoir que des mesures seront prises pour l'amortissement de sa créance conformément à des dispositions formelles dont les Gouvernements étrangers ne voudraient sans doute pas lui faire perdre le bénéfice.

La Commission Européenne du Danube s'est déjà très-loyalement prononcée à la presque unanimité de ses membres pour le principe d'un remboursement partiel ou total de la créance Ottomane sans attendre l'échéance de 1883, après laquelle devaient commencer les versements semestriels, et nous sommes convaincus que ce principe d'équité sera confirmé à la prochaine Session et recevra sa consécration pratique.

Du reste, les nouveaux arrangements internationaux intervenus depuis la dernière Session nous font espérer que les propositions de la Sublime Porte ne sauraient plus soulever aucune espèce d'objection motivée au sein de la Commission Européenne.

Quant au mode de règlement, diverses combinaisons ont été proposées soit sur la base d'un remboursement partiel, soit sur celle d'une liquidation complète et immédiate, qui ferait rentrer la Sublime Porte dans la totalité de sa créance moyennant un escompte dont le taux serait déterminé d'un commun accord.

Quoi qu'il en soit, la Sublime Porte ne croit pas inutile de faire connaître dès aujourd'hui son propre *desideratum* qu'elle espère voir prendre en considération par la Commission.

Il consisterait: (1) a ramener le fonds de réserve à un chiffre maximum qui serait fixé par la Commission et à consacrer l'excédant actuel au paiement d'une partie de la créance du Gouvernement Impérial; (2) a éteindre immédiatement le solde qui resterait dû à la Sublime Porte moyennant escompte, conformément à l'idée émise par l'un des membres de la Commission.

En ce qui touche l'escompte que l'on ferait porter sur le montant de ce solde, la Commission Européenne du Danube ne refusera pas certainement de prendre en considération que la créance qu'il s'agit de rembourser est elle-même productive d'intérêts, que cet escompte constitue un profit et qu'il devrait être dès lors fixé au taux le plus modique.

Telles sont les considérations et les vues que je prie votre Excellence de développer près du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique en lui laissant, au besoin, copie de la présente dépêche.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) AL. CARATHÉODORY.

No. 218.

M. Bartholomei to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 8.)

Ambassade Impériale de Russie, Chesham House, le 8 Avril, 1879.

M. le Marquis,

VOUS m'avez dit hier que le Gouvernement Anglais avait désigné le Capitaine Sale comme Délégué pour la délimitation du Monténégro.

Le Gouvernement Impérial vient de m'informer qu'il propose comme point de réunion des Délégués Européens la ville de Cettigné.

Je m'empresse d'en faire part à votre Excellence et la prie d'agréer l'assurance de mon profond respect.

(Signé) H. BARTHOLOMEI.

No. 219.

Memorandum communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Karolyi, April 8, 1879.

(Confidential.)

AS the Imperial and Royal Government have already had occasion to remark in the month of November last, it behoves the European Danube Commission, in order to carry out the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, to revise in the first instance the Acte Public of the 2nd November, 1865.

The Comité Exécutif of the above Commission has accordingly taken that matter in hand, and entrusted the Austro-Hungarian Delegate with the duty of drawing up an agreement to that effect.

At the meeting of the 25th February last our Delegate presented his draft, but any discussion on the subject was rendered impossible on account of the protest of the Russian Delegate against the extension of the action of the Commission to the Kilia branch of the Danube. In consequence of this proceeding the matter had to be referred to the different Governments for instructions in the question of principle involved.

According to our view there cannot be the slightest doubt about the right of the Commission to extend their action to the St. George's and to the Kilia branch. This right follows not only from the text of Article XVI of the Treaty of Paris and Article LXIII of the Treaty of Berlin, but also from the fact that for many years, previous to the choice of the Sulina branch, a discussion had been going on about which of the different branches ought to be chosen for the purposes of improving its navigation. We must protest against the Russian assumption that, from the fact of the Acte Public of 1865, not mentioning the Kilia branch, a renouncement of the right to undertake any works in that branch could be deduced.

We believe on the contrary that to-day, when the Treaty of Berlin guarantees to the Danube Commission complete independence from the territorial Power, Russia is bound to allow the working of the Commission also there where it touches Russian territory.

We intend to instruct our Delegate in that sense, but are anxious to know the opinions of the other Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin on this point.

Belgrave Square, April 8, 1879.

No. 220.

Colonel Deedes to Lord Tenterden.—(Received April 8.)

Sir, *War Office, April 5, 1879.*

WITH reference to the 9th Protocol of the European Commission for the Delimitation of Bulgaria, held at Constantinople on the 30th November, 1878 (see page 113 of the "Correspondence respecting the Commissions appointed for the demarcation of frontiers under the Treaty of Berlin," 1878.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to forward herewith, for the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, fifty copies of the "Croquis général de la Frontière Roumano-Bulgare," in four sheets, scale $\frac{1}{400000}$, which has been compiled and lithographed in the Intelligence Branch of this Office.

Fifty copies have been supplied to Major-General Hamley, C.B., Her Britannic Majesty's Boundary Commissioner; and Secretary Colonel Stanley has directed that any more copies which may be required for the use of the Foreign Office, can be supplied by the Intelligence Branch, on application being made to that Department.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. DEEDES.

No. 221.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 8.)

(No. 305.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 7, 1879.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informs me that the Porte will to-morrow address Circular to its Representatives, stating that it accepts the mixed occupation.

It will suggest, without insisting, that Russia should follow example of France and Germany, and abstain from active participation, in which case Turkey would do the same. It will propose that the mixed occupation should be preceded by a Protocol at Constantinople.

No. 221[5].

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 8.)

(No. 306. Confidential.) *Constantinople, April 7, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

I PRESSED Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day for an answer as to force available for Eastern Roumelia and the present position of the troops. His Excellency said he could say nothing. He gave me, however, to understand that, on being brought to book, the military authorities had confessed that the forces were utterly inadequate [? and that they], should not be even prepared to occupy Ichtiman. I asked his Excellency what he proposed to do if, which was not impossible, the arrangement of details of the mixed occupation presented so many difficulties that the scheme was abandoned.

He did not really know, but he hoped that there was no danger of such an eventuality.

No. 222.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 8.)

(No. 307. Secret.) *Constantinople, April 7, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

THE Austrian Convention will be signed. Probably on Wednesday.

Austria undertakes in annex to the Convention not to cross the heights of Ragosna without a previous understanding with the Porte. The Emperor has conceded this as a personal mark of goodwill to the Sultan. Count Zichy begs that I will keep the success of the negotiation secret till signature.

No. 223.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 8.)

(No. 308.) *Constantinople, April 7, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

THE Porte having learned that the Assembly at Tirnovo has adopted the first of the 32nd Articles of the Organization Law, has instructed its Commissioner to put in a protest against the Articles to which it had previously objected, and to transmit it to Prince Dondoukoff.

No. 224.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 8.)

(No. 310.) *Constantinople, April 7, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

I ASKED the Sultan to receive me, in order that I may make the communication as instructed in your Lordship's No. 8.

His Majesty says that he will see me to-morrow, but he begs me to make communication previously to Grand Vizier, and consult his Highness on the subject.

I will endeavour to see his Highness this afternoon.

No. 225.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 8.)

(No. 311. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 7, 1879.*

I HAVE seen the Grand Vizier. His Highness seemed to be rather pleased than otherwise at the communication which I am instructed to make to the Sultan, and requested me to impress each of the points, so that His Majesty should understand them thoroughly. I was in error in saying that the Sultan would see me to-morrow. His Majesty said any day except to-morrow.

Baker Pasha tells me that the Porte could not have ready a force of more than 15,000 men, unless they were to leave the lines insufficiently defended.

No. 226.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 8.)

(No. 34.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 7, 1879.*

IN case mixed occupation should come to nothing, the Russian Government accepts your alternative scheme, with the following modifications:—

The Turkish troops sent to Bourgas to be a contingent and not an army; to be located in town itself, and not to overrun neighbourhood.

The Russian Government strongly urges upon you not to press location of Turkish troops at Ichtiman, or anywhere else within the province, on the ground that the Turks themselves are not anxious to do so. Though Russian Government considers that Delimitation Commission will have finished its work before the year is out, it desires to make entry of the Turkish garrisons into Balkans conditional upon the frontier having been determined; and it further proposes that the number and the station of the garrisons should be settled beforehand. Further, they desire it to be stipulated that it shall not be competent for the Governor or the Commission to call in the Turkish troops until after the Russsian army shall have evacuated Roumelia and Bulgaria, *i.e.* 3rd August.

Count Schouvaloff called upon me after Prince Gortchacow had communicated to me the foregoing, and said he deplored the failure of the mixed occupation scheme, as great calamities might ensue. He earnestly entreated you to postpone entry of the Turkish troops as long as possible, even into Bourgas, and certainly until after the 3rd August, saying that that condition had been introduced by the Emperor himself in the hope of postponing the chances of a collision until such time as the Russian army, being already out of the country, public opinion in Russia would not be so inclined to require its return in the event of disturbances. He added that Todleben informed him that the population would submit quietly to Turkish Governor-General provided they were not exasperated by the appearance of Turkish troops.

Count Schouvaloff further recommended that we should not require withdrawal of the Russian officers from militia and police until after the 3rd August, as their retention would be the best security for the good conduct of those bodies.

The foregoing propositions suggest two theories.

If it is publicly stipulated that the Turkish Governor-General cannot call in troops to his assistance between the 3rd May and the 3rd August, an interval is provided in which Roumeliotes can accomplish a revolution with impunity. Is the stipulation made in order to promote such a result, or, as Count Schouvaloff asserts, with an honest desire to avoid a collision until Russian army is out of the country and the honour of its flag saved?

In hazarding an opinion upon this point I incur considerable responsibility, but I have always been under the impression that the Emperor wishes to get away, and I think that the reason alleged by Count Schouvaloff for the condition referred to is the true reason. How far it may be wise to accept that condition is another matter, and depends upon considerations which can be better appreciated at London and at Philippopolis than here. Would the Commission itself be safe under such circumstances?

I concluded my conversation with Prince Gortchacow by telling him that all your proposals having been made with the desire of meeting views of Russian Government, it was unlikely any suggestions for their modification would be accepted.

No. 227.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 8.)

(No. 35.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April* 7, 1879.

PRINCE GORTCHACOW inquired of me to-day what answer Her Majesty's Government propose making to M. Delyanni's Circular of [group wrong] 21st ultimo, asking for mediation of Signatory Powers.

No. 228.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 8.)

(No. 36.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April* 7, 1879.

GENERAL TODLEBEN called upon me, at my request. He said that the suggestion as to the non-entry of Turkish troops into Bourgas or elsewhere until Russian evacuation was complete, had emanated from himself. He gave me his word of honour it concealed no *arrière-pensée*, that the desire was to get the army safe out of the country; but that, of course, if, whilst it was there, any catastrophe should occur, it would be very difficult for it to continue its retreat; that the Bulgarians threatened to provoke a collision in order to detain them; that it was to prevent this he deprecated the premature arrival of Turkish troops, even at Bourgas, until Russian army had quitted Bulgaria. His plan was to withdraw Russian forces from Roumelia by degrees, leaving a regiment until the last moment for the protection of Commission; that Turkish troops should spread themselves along the southern borders of the province, and that Russian troops should protect Delimitation Commission on the north, who should be required to finish their labours in time to allow this force to retreat with the rear-guard.

That after the 1st July, by which time the Russian troops would be out of Roumelia, the Governor-General would be able to fall back upon the native militia, who were well organized, and could be depended upon to support Executive.

It was he also who had suggested that Russian officers should not be at once dismissed from militia regiments, but retained until they could be gradually replaced by Turkish officers. This plan, in his opinion, offered the best chance of a peaceful issue to the affair. I said that if he were to be charged with superintendence of operations it would give great confidence in England. He replied that Stolipine was quite trustworthy, and as anxious as himself to see matters end well. I then referred to Prince Gortchacow's proposal that the Porte should surrender [for] three months its right of calling in Turkish troops, adding that even supposing it were advisable not to exercise such a right, it would be out of the question to abjure it altogether. He then reverted to what would be the Emperor's situation [?], Russian people, and his army, if there were fresh massacres, and intimated that there were large corps d'armée massed on the frontier.

I replied that if the evacuation were arrested our fleets would begin to move, and that when the forces of two resolute nations advanced in opposite directions the case [?] very grave, in which observation he agreed; assuring me, however, that the universal wish in Russia was to avoid war. General Todleben has the reputation and the appearance of an honest man, and I am convinced he has spoken to me the exact truth.

Although [?]s to me out of the question that we should agree to Prince Gortchacow's proposal that the Governor-General and the Commission should formally abjure their right to call in the Turkish troops in case of need, I cannot but think that our best plan of avoiding serious consequences will be voluntarily to hold back the Turkish troops and prevent all chances of collision until after the Russian army is well away.

No. 229.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tirnovo, April* 7, 1879.

I LEAVE to-night. Shall be at Constantinople early on the 10th, and shall be here again on the 18th instant.

Arrangements for election of future Prince passed by Assembly to-day; election [group wrong] will be probably by the end of this month; favourite candidates are Prince Reuss; Batthaburg [? Battenberg]; Waldemar of Denmark. If you prefer any one in particular, please instruct me accordingly.

No. 230.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 8.)

(? No. 136.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 8, 1879.

RING, who will see Sultan to-day, intends to speak strongly against appointment of Alcko Pasha. He says that this Pasha violently opposed the establishment of the Exarchate, and will therefore be unpopular with the Bulgarians

The French still strongly advocate an European Governor-General.

No. 231.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 8.)

(No. 137.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 8, 1879.

THE Turks will not help me in either of the points to which you have called attention. I mooted that of the militia officers but very cautiously. They were silent. They say that they anticipate no difficulty about the domain. Do you wish me to raise question? Otherwise I shall not do so.

No. 232.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 8, 6·15 P.M.)

(No. 55.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 8, 1879, 4·9 P.M.

TURKISH Ambassador informs me that he had been told by Count Andrassy that, notwithstanding refusal of German Government to take part in the mixed occupation, he had intimated to Prince Bismarck his wish that the foreign troops should be placed under German Commander, but that the suggestion was peremptorily rejected.

I understand from my colleague that Count Andrassy is strongly in favour of having the troops under one Commander, but I have not myself spoken to him on the subject, not knowing the opinion of Her Majesty's Government. He considers that if each contingent were independent it would leave a better field for Russian intrigue.

No. 233.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 8, 1879, 6·55 P.M.

WE are favourable to principles of Ottoman Bank proposal, and are in consultation with French upon them. But you should state very plainly to Sultan that the

conduct of Khedive in upsetting the Egyptian arrangement has enormously diminished the chance of raising money for the Porte. Hint that it would be of great advantage to the Sultan if Prince Tewfik or Haleem were to be substituted for Khedive.

No. 234.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 8, 1879, 7 P.M.

YOURS 137.

If the Porte, on reflection, are fully satisfied you need not press the question further.

No. 235.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 8, 1879, 7·30 P.M.

I SEND you proposal of Ottoman Bank. I presume M. Waddington is acquainted with it. We are disposed to appoint Commissioners, and to accept from Porte engagement that these Commissioners shall receive the proceeds of *régie* and customs, and shall, in case of customs, have the power of introducing reforms in administration, and for that purpose have nomination and dismissal of employés, and shall be irremovable without our consent; but we shall require that the consent of bondholders of the four years named, or of their representatives, shall be first obtained; and we shall protect the Government from possible responsibility by a declaration similar to that made in case of Daïra Loan.

Before we give any answer, we should like to know what M. Waddington thinks.

No. 236.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 8, 1879, 7·50 P.M.

WITH respect to modifications proposed in my alternative scheme, we cannot alter any of the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, but we are as desirous as Russian Government that no collision shall occur. With this view we think that Turks might be asked to abstain from sending troops to any place in the province, even to Bourgas, until the Russian troops had evacuated it under the Treaty. We would recommend them in that sense, and do not doubt they would agree. Their occupation of Bourgas under the Treaty must be confined to the littoral, because they occupy it as a frontier. It might be arranged also that they should abstain from sending garrisons to the land frontiers, till those frontiers were marked out, if a reasonable time were limited for that demarcation, and if Russian Government would consent to let controverted points of demarcation be decided by a majority. But the conduct of the Turks must in some degree be dependent on the Roumeliotes. If the latter break out into insurrection against the Treaty of Berlin, Turkey cannot bind herself to sit still and do nothing while the Treaty is being broken up.

Assure Count Schouvaloff of our great anxiety to prevent contact, so far as possible, between the Turkish troops and the Roumeliotes. We wish the latter to enjoy their self-government in peace, and the military action of Turkey to be restricted to measures required for its political security. Press upon him the necessity of agreeing at once, either to Aleko or Rustem. Anarchy is certain to follow if no Governor is appointed. We will then consent to prolongation of Commission for a year, and that Governor during that time shall not summon Turkish troops to the interior without sanction of the majority, which will only be given in case of absolute necessity.

If he will further consent that Delimitation Commission shall conclude its work this year, and for that purpose shall decide by majority, we will agree to move the Turks to consent not to occupy Bourgas till the Russians have left the province under the Treaty, and not to occupy land frontiers till the Commission of Delimitation has finished its work. But time presses; unless arrangement is made quickly, it may be too late.

No. 237.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 20.
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 8, 1879, 8 P.M.

YOURS No. 36 received after my previous telegram written.

I need only add that Todleben's plan for gradual replacement of Russian officers of militia seems to me judicious. The sudden dismissal of all the officers must produce disorder among the militia. The offer I make in to-day's telegram seems to me to meet General Todleben's views. Our objects appear to be identical, so that we ought to be able to agree.

No. 238.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 171.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April* 8, 1879.

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 34 of the 7th instant, stating that if the project for a mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia should fall through, the Russian Government are prepared to accept the alternative proposal contained in my despatch No. 151 of the 2nd instant, subject to certain conditions and modifications.

The extent to which Her Majesty's Government are ready to agree to these counter proposals has been stated to you in my telegram No. 19 of this day's date. While, on the one hand, they cannot consent to anything which would imply an alteration of, or a departure from, the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, Her Majesty's Government, on the other hand, are quite as desirous as that of Russia, to avoid the occasion of any collision. They think that the Porte might be asked, with this view, to abstain from sending troops to any place within the province, even to Bourgas, until it has been evacuated by the Russian troops, in compliance with the Treaty.

Her Majesty's Government are willing to advise the Turkish Government in that sense, and do not doubt of obtaining their assent.

The occupation of Bourgas, which the Russian Government wish to be limited to a contingent in the town itself, and not to overrun the neighbourhood, must, according to the Treaty, be, in any case, confined to the littoral, for the Turkish forces can only be stationed there as holding a point on the maritime frontier.

It might also be arranged that the Turkish garrisons should not be sent to the land frontiers until those frontiers had been marked out, provided the work of demarcation is completed within a reasonable time, and if the Russian Government would consent, for that purpose, to the decision of controverted points by the vote of the majority of the Commission. The conduct of the Turkish Government must, however, in some degree be dependent on that of the population of the province. If the latter break out into insurrection against the arrangements introduced by the Treaty, it cannot be expected that Turkey should bind herself to sit still and do nothing, while the settlement made at Berlin is being broken up.

Your Excellency has been authorized to assure Count Schouvaloff of our earnest desire to prevent contact, as far as possible, between the Turkish troops and the Roumeliotes. Her Majesty's Government are anxious that the latter should enjoy in peace the self-government which has been secured to them, and that the military action of Turkey should be restricted to the measures required for her political security.

You should press upon him the necessity of agreeing at once to the appointment either of Aleko or Rustem Pasha as Governor-General. If no Governor-General is appointed, anarchy is certain to result.

On the concession of this point, Her Majesty's Government will give their consent to the prolongation of the European Commission for another year, during

which time the Governor-General would not be authorized to summon the Turkish regular troops into the interior of the province, except with the sanction of the majority of the Commission; such sanction only to be given in case of absolute necessity.

If the Russian Government will further consent that the Boundary Commission shall conclude its work within the present year, and shall, for that purpose, decide disputed questions by a vote of the majority, Her Majesty's Government will use their influence to induce the Porte to defer the occupation of Bourgas until the Russian forces have left the province in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty, and also to abstain from garrisoning the land frontier, until the work of the Commission of Demarcation has been concluded.

Time, however, presses, and unless an arrangement be quickly made, it may be too late to secure a peaceful issue.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 239.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 173.)
Foreign Office, April 8, 1879.

My Lord,

SINCE my immediately preceding despatch was written, the substance of which was telegraphed to your Excellency, I have received your message No. 36 of yesterday, narrating what had passed at your interview with General Todleben.

In reply I have to state to you that General Todleben's plan for the gradual replacement of the Russian officers attached to the militia regiments in Eastern Roumelia by Turkish officers seems to me to be judicious, as the sudden dismissal of all their present officers cannot fail to produce disorder among the militia.

The proposals which you have already been authorized to-day to submit to the Russian Government on the part of that of Her Majesty appear to meet General Todleben's views in other respects, and as the objects which he has in view seem to be identical with those of this Government, there should be no difficulty in arriving at a mutual agreement with regard to the line to be now pursued.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 240.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 194.)
Foreign Office, April 8, 1879.

Sir,

IN reply to your telegram No. 137 of this day, I have to state to you that I do not consider that it will be necessary that you should press further upon the Porte the question relating to the Gendarmerie and the State lands if that Government is fully satisfied, on further reflection, that no further modification of the Organic Statute in these respects is required.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 241.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 501.)
Foreign Office, April 8, 1879.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration the proposals of the Ottoman Bank for the issue of a new Turkish loan, and are disposed to view them favourably.

They are now consulting the French Government with regard to this scheme for giving financial aid to the Porte, but you should state very plainly to the Sultan that the recent conduct of the Khedive in upsetting the arrangements which was concluded

by His Highness last autumn with the British and French Governments has enormously diminished the chances of raising money for Turkey.

You might take an opportunity to suggest to His Majesty that his own interests would be served by the substitution of Prince Tewfik or Halim Pasha for the Khedive.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 242.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 227.)
Foreign Office, April 8, 1879.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copy of an instruction which I have addressed to Captain M. T. Sale, R.E., Her Majesty's Commissioner for the demarcation of the frontiers of Montenegro.

I shall be obliged by your affording to Captain Sale whatever assistance is in your power towards the fulfilment of his duties.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 243.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Captain Sale, R.E.

(No. 2.)
Foreign Office, April 8, 1879.

Sir,

THE Queen having been graciously pleased to appoint you to be Her Majesty's Commissioner for the demarcation of the new frontiers of Montenegro, as settled by Article XXVIII of the Treaty of Berlin, I have to instruct you to proceed at the earliest possible moment to Vienna, where you will learn from Her Majesty's Ambassador the intended place and date of meeting of the Commission.

A copy of the Treaty is inclosed herewith for your information and guidance.

The discussions in regard to the frontier on which you will be occupied are recorded in Protocols 10 and 12 of the Congress of Berlin, which you will find at pp. 156 and 181 of the accompanying collection of correspondence presented to Parliament.

I further inclose copy of a letter from General Sir L. Simmons, from which you will perceive that while at Berlin in July last he suggested that the members of the Committee employed in the description of the frontiers laid down in the Treaty should compare their several maps with the descriptions in the Treaty and with each other before leaving that capital. A copy of Major Ardagh's Memorandum of what took place on the occasion of the comparison accompanies the letter, together with a facsimile copy of that part of the map compared by Major Ardagh, which has on it the approximate tracing of the new frontiers of Montenegro.

In the questions which will come before you, British interests are only slightly and indirectly involved. Your efforts should be directed to the attainment of a settlement in accordance with the spirit and intention of the Treaty, and to the arrangement of any doubtful points in a manner equitable and satisfactory to the parties immediately concerned, so as to remove occasions for future disputes and ill-will.

It will be desirable that any disputed questions should, as far as possible, be settled by the vote of the majority of the Commission. If in any case this should prove impracticable, you will refer the matter to Her Majesty's Government.

It will be desirable that you should communicate fully with Mr. Kirby Green, Her Majesty's Consul-General at Scutari, and Chargé d'Affaires to the Prince of Montenegro, who, as well as Her Majesty's Consul at Ragusa, will afford you whatever assistance and advice is in his power.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 244.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Captain Sale.

(No. 3.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 8, 1879.*

I HAVE to instruct you to address your despatches to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, numbering them in a regular series according to the forms in use in this Office, as prescribed in the accompanying Circular.

It will be desirable that your Reports should, wherever practicable, be forwarded under flying seal to Her Majesty's Consul-General and Chargé d'Affaires at Scutari; or where this would cause delay, they may be sent in a similar manner to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 245.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Lingen.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 8, 1879.*

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to request that you will inform the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury that, as it has become desirable at once to appoint European Commissioners for the demarcation of the new frontier assigned to Montenegro by the Treaty of Berlin, Captain Sale, R.E., has been appointed Her Majesty's Commissioner for that purpose, with a salary of 450*l.* in addition to regimental pay, allowances, and travelling expenses, according to the arrangement sanctioned by your letter of the 20th September last.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 246.

Mr. Erskine to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 26.)

My Lord, *Stockholm, April 5, 1879.*

PRINCE BESSARABA BRANCOVANO, the son-in-law of Musurus Bey, arrived here the day before yesterday on a special mission to notify to His Swedish Majesty the accession of Prince Charles of Roumania as the ruler of an independent State.

It is understood that the Prince will have an official audience of the King in a day or two, and that he will shortly afterwards return to Paris, where he habitually resides.

It is further given out that the acceptance by Prince Brancovano of this mission was somewhat unexpected, and that it has given great satisfaction at Bucharest, as the Prince had not hitherto recognized Prince Charles as legitimate Prince of Roumania.

General Björnstjerna has stated to me, and to some of my colleagues, that he intended to invite the Prince to an official dinner, at which the place of honour would be assigned to him; and that he should, naturally, have wished to ask the diplomatic body to meet him, but that the General had been obliged to abandon that intention, as it might have caused some awkwardness in the case of the Representatives of those Powers which had not yet officially recognized the independence of Roumania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. M. ERSKINE.

No. 247.

M. Bartholomei to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 9.)

Ambassade Impériale de Russie, Chesham House, le 9 Avril, 1879.

M. le Marquis,

JE viens de recevoir un télégramme du Chancelier Prince Gortchacow dont je m'empresse de vous transmettre le contenu.

Les questions de délimitation entre la Roumélie Orientale et la Bulgarie sont de nature à offrir des dangers sérieux après le départ des troupes Russes; aussi le Gouvernement Impérial est d'avis qu'il serait indispensable de hâter les travaux de la Commission de Délimitation afin de pouvoir les terminer avant l'évacuation complète des forces Russes.

Je suis chargé de vous faire part de ce qui précède et de m'expliquer envers vous dans ce sens, afin d'obtenir que le Gouvernement Britannique donne des ordres en conséquence à son Délégué auprès de la Commission de Délimitation.

Vu l'importance du sujet, et la nécessité de compter avec le temps, je vous serais obligé de me faire savoir aussitôt que possible les dispositions que vous jugerez opportun de prendre à cet égard.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) H. BARTHOLOMEI.

No. 248.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 139.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 8, 1879.*

I HEAR that Prince Dondoukoff has issued an order fixing the final evacuation for the 3rd August.

The danger of this is the continued drilling of the gymnastic societies and [group wrong] fresh batches of militia, who will together make a numerous and well-disciplined army.

No. 249.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 140.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April 9, 1879.*

I HAVE received the following telegram from Lord Donoughmore at Philippopolis:—

"Governor of Philippopolis told Schmidt that Turkish inhabitants are emigrating from Haskoï-Hermanli district entirely. Destitute families are at Hermanli Railway Station. Governor of Adrianople has requested Russian authorities to afford these people every facility.

"Also, for sanitary reasons, Russian troops will be withdrawn from Rhodope, and their place taken by Gardes Champêtres. To make requisite number, some of the drill societies will be mobilized. The forces will muster here next week.

"M. Tonjuroff informs Walpole that a Protestant Bulgarian messenger just come from Macedonia states that Russians have dispersed the rebels and arrested the ringleaders, and have recommended all who dislike Turkish rule to leave."

No. 250.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 9, 1879, 6 P.M.*

YOURS No. 55.

I have written to you about mixed occupation in my letter to-day. It does not seem likely to take place. Attitude of Italy and Turkey are fatal to it, and there are other serious difficulties.

We insist and trust Austria will do the same, that, whatever the fate of the mixed occupation scheme, the evacuation by the Russians must be complete by the appointed date.

No. 251.

The Marquis of Salisbury to M. Bartholomei.

Foreign Office, April 9, 1879.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

I HAVE to acknowledge your letter of to-day's date, which has just reached me.

Her Majesty's Government entirely concur with Prince Gortchacow in the desire expressed by his Highness to hasten the operations of the Committee of Delimitation. We do not doubt they will receive very valuable protection from the Russian troops, so long as the latter remain in the country.

I have made proposals at St. Petersburgh, which have for their object the acceleration of the labours of this Commission. But I will at once give instructions to General Hamley to hold himself in readiness to commence his duties at the earliest possible moment.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 252.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 195.)

Foreign Office, April 9, 1879.

My Lord,

COUNT MÜNSTER stated, in the course of a conversation which I had with him on the 7th inst., that, according to his information, the French had been intriguing in Eastern Roumelia, under the inspiration of M. Fournier, for the appointment of a Frenchman as Governor of the province, and that the candidate whom they were supporting was M. de Castellane.

M. de Castellane is the individual whose history is given in Mr. Malet's despatch No. 214 of the 7th ult., and who is said, in that despatch, to have presented a memorandum to the Grand Vizier, suggesting the appointment as Governor of M. Coutouly, the Assistant French Commissioner in the Eastern Roumelian Commission. I suggested to Count Münster that, perhaps, it was M. Coutouly whom his informant had mentioned to him as the probable candidate; but he adhered to his version of the story, that it was M. Castellane.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 253.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 321.)

Foreign Office, April 9, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram of yesterday (No. 55), respecting Count Andrassy's unsuccessful endeavours to induce the German Government to accept the command of the mixed force of occupation in Eastern Roumelia should they persist in their refusal to furnish a contingent.

The refusal of Prince Bismarck loses the importance which Count Andrassy appears to attach to it in face of the fact that the chances of the mixed occupation taking place are much diminished, owing to the attitude of Italy and Turkey, which seems fatal to the success of the project, and to other serious difficulties which have presented themselves.

Her Majesty's Government, whatever may be the fate of this scheme, will continue to insist upon the evacuation of the Russian troops being completed by the

appointed date, and they trust that the Austro-Hungarian Government will take the same course.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 254.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 10.)

(No. 147. Confidential.)

Baveno, April 8, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith two Confidential Reports, with their inclosures, which I have received from Mr. Macdonell of his conversations with Count Tornielli on the subject of a rectification of the Greco-Turkish frontier, and of the proposed mixed occupation of Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 254.

Mr. Macdonell to Sir A. Paget.

(Confidential.)

Rome, April 6, 1879.

Sir,

IN a conversation I had with Count Tornielli he confirmed the report which had previously reached me, and which formed the subject of my telegram of the 4th instant, that the Italian Special Agent, Signor de Goubernati, agrees with the resident Consuls in Epirus in warning the Italian Government of the difficulties and complications which may arise from a rectification of the Greek frontier in that direction.

Herewith I have the honour to inclose an article from the "Italie" on the subject of Greece, which I have reason to believe was communicated to that journal by the Italian Foreign Office in consequence of M. de Goubernati's Reports.

Count Tornielli informed me that the Italian Government, notwithstanding the activity of Greek sympathizers in Rome, such as Signor Cairoli, Crispi, and others, was determined to oppose the pretensions of the Greek Government, and to act strictly in accordance with the Treaty of Berlin. Any fresh complications, he said, in that quarter can only further the views of Austria.

I asked him if he was aware of the early arrival of two Albanian Chiefs on a mission to Rome and Paris. He replied that the Government had been advised of it, but he feared their presence would not tend to improve matters, the more so as the French Government appear somewhat disposed to overstep the limits of prudence in favour of Greece, as regards the rectification of frontier. Since the Italian Government has caused representations to be made to the French Cabinet, Count Tornielli is informed that M. Waddington is studying a new line of frontier, which it is believed here will not be free from objections.

The French Ambassador, who likewise spoke to me on this subject, is evidently much irritated at the attitude assumed by the Italian Government in regard to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 254.

Mr. Macdonell to Sir A. Paget.

(Confidential.)

Rome, April 6, 1879.

Sir,

HAVING had occasion to call on Count Tornielli, I availed myself of the opportunity to read to him that passage of your Excellency's private letter of the 1st instant which had reference to the mixed occupation of Roumelia.* He said that the only steps taken by the Italian Government in this matter since your departure was a telegram sent to the Italian

* N.B.—This merely said that since I left Rome the situation appeared to me to be unchanged; that I believed negotiations were going on at Constantinople.—A. P.

Ambassador at St. Petersburgh notifying the acceptance, in principle, of the Russian proposal.

Count Tornielli declined to give me a copy of the document in question, but allowed me to read it, and the inclosed précis, drawn up from memory, will, I trust, enable your Excellency to form an opinion of its object and significance.

He called my attention, in a marked manner, to the following words: "The Italian Government agrees in principle to the dispatch of an armed contingent to Roumelia by the Seven Great Powers."

This sentence, he said, had been so worded with the object, first, of securing the participation of Turkey in the proposed occupation; secondly, with a view to guarding the interests of Italy; and thirdly, in order to enable the Italian Government to withdraw from the engagement should it not be loyally carried out, or should it be deemed prejudicial to their interests.

I asked Count Tornielli if anything had occurred since your Excellency's departure to induce his Government to modify its views or act differently in this matter; to which he answered that, on the contrary, he thought the Chamber might easily be persuaded to endorse the decision of the Government; but he was of opinion that Italy could not speak too plainly at so critical a moment, and endeavour to convey clearly to Her Majesty's Government the object which prompted her to sanction the proposed occupation. "England," he added, "as well as Austria and Russia, has a defined object, which has, to a certain extent, been secured; but the interests which lead Italy, at the last moment, to take an active part in Eastern affairs are of a different order. Our object is to endeavour to preserve the integrity of the Ottoman Empire, to secure the execution of the Treaty of Berlin, and to protect our interests by endeavouring to check the further advance of Austria on Turkish territory.

"It should therefore be distinctly understood that, without some such guarantee, Italy cannot enter into an arrangement the risk of which is eventually to place her face to face with Austria, and involve her in difficulties which she might perhaps have prudently avoided by remaining peacefully at home."

Count Tornielli added that, though he had already spoken to your Excellency in the above sense, I was at liberty to report our conversation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 254.

Précis of Telegram sent by the Italian Government to the Italian Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, relative to the Mixed Occupation of Roumelia.

THE project of a foreign intervention in Roumelia, under the present abnormal and irregular condition of that country, is barely of a nature to find favour with the Cabinet of Rome.

Its acceptance by the Italian Government would be at variance with those principles by which it has ever been guided, the more so as the Congress of Berlin does not appear to have deemed it necessary to provide for such a contingency.

The King's Government would have preferred a literal application of the Treaty rather than a return to the 5th Protocol, but as it attaches too high a value to the execution of the Treaty itself, it cannot, under the exceptional circumstances created by the presence of a Russian army in a country to which Europe has extended an administrative autonomy, reject a proposal, the object of which is to secure the loyal and quiet execution of the Treaty, and guard against further complication.

Prompted by the above considerations, the King's Government is willing in principle to adhere to the said project, on the understanding that the present case shall not be invoked as a precedent hereafter.

Under these circumstances, and in the interest of order, the Italian Government agrees in principle to the despatch of an armed contingent to Roumelia by the Seven Great Powers, and declares itself ready to examine and consider the ways and means for carrying out this projected occupation, as also the condition which are to form the basis for a complete and loyal execution of this stipulation.

Inclosure 4 in No. 254.

Extract from "l'Italie" of April 4, 1879.

LES REVENDICATIONS DE LA GRÈCE.—Aujourd'hui que nous nous trouvons en présence de revendications de la Grèce, qui demande l'application des clauses du Traité de Berlin stipulées en sa faveur, il n'est pas sans intérêt de connaître la situation des provinces que cet Etat voudrait s'annexer.

A ce titre on lira, croyons-nous, avec profit l'étude qui suit, sur l'élément Albanais et sur ses tendances, ainsi que sur l'élément Grec-Epirote, le seul qui soit de nature, sinon à justifier, du moins à expliquer les prétentions des Hellènes.

Toutefois, avant d'entreprendre une telle étude, il faut exposer brièvement le côté historique de la question qui vient d'être posée par les Grecs et les Albanais. Ce côté historique est peu connu, et, cependant, c'est sur l'histoire, comme aussi sur l'ethnographie de l'Epire et de la Thessalie, que se basent les revendications des uns et la résistance des autres.

On ne saurait affirmer que les anciennes Républiques de la Grèce aient jamais possédé l'Epire. On ne saurait, non plus, considérer Pyrrhus comme un Grec, lui qui a plutôt visé à conquérir la Grèce. L'Epire s'est, d'abord, trouvée sous la domination de la Macédoine, ensuite sous celle des Romains, des Empereurs Byzantins, des Vénitiens à l'époque des Latins; à différentes époques elle a été gouvernée par ses propres Ducs; au quatorzième siècle, elle tomba sous le joug des Serbes; mais jamais elle n'a fait partie de la Grèce, et, en aucun temps, elle n'a partagé les destinées de l'Hellade.

Ce n'est donc pas la revendication d'une possession ancienne que les Grecs cherchent à faire triompher; car, à ce titre, l'Hellade n'aurait pas même pu réclamer l'Ile de Corfou, qui, après avoir été gouvernée pendant plusieurs siècles par ses propres chefs, passa presque immédiatement sous la domination Romaine.

Les aspirations Helléniques sont de toute autre nature.

A l'époque où Rome assujettit la Grèce et ses Colonies, l'Hellénisme existait dans la Péninsule des Balkans, aussi bien que sur les côtes d'Ionie et dans les îles. Il avait déjà pénétré dans l'intérieur de la Macédoine et de la Thrace, et son influence sur le Bas-Empire était si grande que, depuis l'Empereur Constantin, le Grec, au même titre que le Latin, était la langue officielle, et que, deux siècles plus tard, toute trace de Latin avait disparu des actes publics.

Depuis lors, donc, l'Hellénisme était une force, un flot envahissant.

Au treizième siècle, après avoir été momentanément étouffé à Constantinople par l'Europe, l'Hellénisme fleurit de nouveau dans l'Ionie, sous les Paléologues. Les Turcs l'ont annihilé; il renaît au point de vue politique dans l'Hellade; chaque province qui s'est affranchie vise, tout naturellement, à revendiquer toutes les possessions que le flot Hellénique a traversées.

Telles sont les raisons historiques sur lesquelles les Grecs appuyent leur revendication de l'Epire; telles sont les raisons qu'ils mettent en avant pour justifier leurs demandes d'annexion de la Macédoine, de la Thrace, de l'Ionie, et même de la Bulgarie. Pour la Thessalie, les aspirations des Grecs se basent aussi sur le fait que la Thessalie est le berceau de l'Hellénisme, et qu'elle a souvent partagé le sort de l'Hellade.

Mais toutes ces revendications modérées n'ont aucun prix pour les Grecs. Ceux-ci aspirent à renaître, et désirent attirer à eux toutes les populations qui faisaient jadis partie du grand Empire Byzantin, quelle que soit la race à laquelle ces populations appartiennent.

Les Grecs ne voient point là de violation du principe ethnographique; car toutes ces différentes races ont des rapports d'affinité avec la leur, ou bien elles sont barbares et soumises à l'influence de la civilisation Hellénique. La Grèce n'a pas régné en Epire par la force des armes, mais bien plutôt par la langue et par la civilisation: l'Epire semble donc avoir été gagnée à l'Hellénisme. Il y a, en effet, par-ci, par-là, dans la partie méridionale de ce pays, des villages Albanais dont la plupart des habitants ne parlent que le Grec.

Par suite de la grande résistance que l'Epire occidentale opposait au flot envahissant de l'Hellénisme, celui-ci a remonté le cours des fleuves d'Arta et d'Aspropotamos, se dirigeant du sud au nord, de même que de l'est à l'ouest, c'est-à-dire de l'Hellade et de la Thessalie. Ainsi, on voit que la langue Grecque a été adoptée par les Valaques du Pinde et s'est répandue dans toute la vallée du Surandaporo. Elle a essayé, à plusieurs reprises, de se propager dans le reste de l'Epire, en par-

tant de l'est et de la mer ; mais, ici, elle s'est trouvée en présence d'un élément plus rebelle.

L'Albanie et les Colonies de Butrinto, Apollonia, Durazzo, ne pouvant pas avancer dans l'intérieur du pays, eurent une existence éphémère.

De là, pour les Albanais, cet axiome historique : qu'ils ne furent jamais conquis par les armes des Grecs ; qu'ils ont toujours été en mesure de résister à l'influence de l'Hellénisme ; qu'ils acceptèrent la domination Byzantine, c'est-à-dire qu'ils passèrent de la domination Romaine sous la domination Byzantine après de nombreuses et longues luttes. Ce n'est, en effet, qu'après avoir détruit quatre-vingts de leurs villes et réduit à l'esclavage 150,000 de leurs habitants, que les Romains eux-mêmes finirent par dompter ces populations.

A l'époque de la décadence du Bas-Empire on voit les Albanais secouer le joug des Comnènes ; puis envahir toute l'Epire et les territoires déjà gagnés à l'Hellénisme, en s'établissant le plus fortement à Arta, et, ensuite, dans la vallée d'Aspropotamos. Un siècle et demi plus tard ces contrées redevinrent Helléniques ; mais l'Epire occidentale continua à rester Albanaise, comme elle l'est encore, incontestablement, aujourd'hui.

Nous avons maintenant à examiner quelle attraction exerce la grande idée Hellénique sur une contrée objet de tant de luttes.

Inutile de dire que cette idée n'exerce aucune attraction sur les Albanais. Ceux-ci éprouvent une répugnance toute particulière à s'unir au petit royaume de Grèce et à mettre leurs épées au service d'un peuple qui vise à les anéantir.

Dans l'Epire Orientale, l'opinion publique offre bien des diversités, suivant qu'il s'agit des classes aisées ou du peuple ; des hommes d'un certain âge, ou des jeunes gens. Les habitants des villages plus ou moins Hellénisés se montrent, eux-mêmes, indifférent à toute civilisation ; leur attitude est passive.

Les jeunes gens, en Epire, sont les seuls qui éprouvent de l'intérêt pour la grande idée Hellénique. Sans doute, ils ont une faible sympathie pour le royaume de Grèce ; mais, se voyant isolés, ils acceptent avec plus ou moins de résignation l'idée d'une annexion qui leur offre la perspective d'autres destinées.

Les hommes d'un certain âge regardent comme des utopies ces aspirations des jeunes gens ; leurs intérêts les portent, d'ailleurs, à s'opposer à tout changement, à empêcher tout désordre. Propriétaires et riches, ils craindraient de perdre ce qu'ils possèdent. Ils sont soumis aux Turcs, dont la mauvaise administration leur procure plus d'un bénéfice ; tandis que l'annexion au royaume de Grèce se traduirait, pour eux, par une augmentation d'impôts, et l'introduction d'éléments nouveaux risquerait de diminuer le prestige de leur autorité.

En Epire, les classes aisées sont, en général, animées d'un esprit conservateur. Elle s'intéressent, il est vrai, au développement intellectuel des masses, qu'elles tâchent de favoriser en contribuant à créer des écoles et autres institutions analogues. Là s'arrête leur patriotisme, ou, du moins, il ne va pas jusqu'à l'enthousiasme des jeunes gens. Ils détestent les Turcs, mais se sentent médiocrement attirés vers leurs voisins de Grèce ; aussi, plutôt que de rien risquer, aiment-ils mieux temporiser. L'idée Hellénique leur sourit, et ils croient à la possibilité de sa réalisation ; mais ils manquent de confiance dans le royaume de Grèce comme représentant des grands intérêts Helléniques. Ils accepteraient l'annexion sans enthousiasme, peut-être même, pour ainsi dire, à leurs corps défendant, et deviendraient, avec le temps, de précieux instruments aux mains des Grecs pour amener le triomphe final de la cause Hellénique ; mais, maintenant, par une conduite irrésolue et de nature à inspirer des doutes, ils servent deux causes à la fois, avec une désinvolture qui fait plutôt l'éloge de leur souplesse que de leur caractère.

L'idée Hellénique n'a pas encore pénétré dans le peuple. A sa place, on voit l'idée religieuse ; mais il paraît que cette dernière a fait aussi son temps, à l'heure qu'il est. La libre nationale montre un certain affaiblissement et accuse des symptômes de décadence, qu'on attribue, comme d'habitude, au Gouvernement Ottoman. Il s'agit seulement ici de constater le mal, et non d'en rechercher l'origine.

On a constaté, chez le bas peuple Epirote, une diminution du fanatisme et de la haine contre les Turcs ; une inspiration vague vers l'avenir, manifestée par un désir général de s'instruire ; une certaine impatience, un certain malaise. Mais on ne se rend pas compte de la cause, et on ne songe pas au remède. L'idée d'une annexion à la Grèce n'a généralement, pas trouvé un accueil chaleureux chez ce peuple ; et c'est ce manque d'enthousiasme qui a constamment fait avorter toute tentative d'insurrection.

Il y a plus : il existe un antagonisme entre les districts, même entre les villages.

L'Epire a toujours eu une existence à part. Quelques Princes comme Pyrrhus et Scanderbergh, par exemple, ont su réunir sous leur puissante autorité les différentes populations de ces contrées ; mais elles formaient des confédérations plutôt que des Etats indépendants. Ali Tebelen devint, par sa cruauté, l'unique tyran, et pourtant on rencontre, même après lui, des districts privilégiés. Janina bait les villages, et les villages haïssent Janina.

Pour le moment, il n'y a aucun lien entre les populations Chrétiennes ; il n'existe pas, non plus, un but unique, nettement indiqué, qui puisse, même pour un instant, rallier les esprits et les pousser à une action commune, ce qui nous mettrait à même de connaître leurs véritables aspirations.

Les journaux Grecs s'efforcent de faire accroire qu'il existe, en Epire, un enthousiasme pour l'annexion ; que tout le monde s'en réjouit déjà, que les quelques Albanais s'y résigneront, étant, d'ailleurs, incapables de résister à une armée régulière. Mais on ne saurait accueillir ces nouvelles qu'en faisant une large part à l'exagération. Au lieu d'enthousiasme, il y a du calme, presque de l'indifférence.

L'idée de l'annexion n'entraîne point les populations Chrétiennes de l'Epire, ni même celles qui habitent les territoires entièrement Hellénisés.

Le royaume de Grèce n'a pas encore gagné beaucoup de sympathies chez ces populations. Néanmoins, elles laisseront agir les Chrétiens non Albanais ou les Chrétiens Hellénisés ; elles finiront non-seulement par accepter l'annexion, mais encore par en être satisfaites ; car les classes élevées tâcheront de leur faire comprendre qu'on en retirera des avantages.

On n'en saurait dire autant des Albanais Chrétiens et des Albanais Musulmans, qui sont très-nombreux et soutenus par leurs compatriotes de l'Albanie centrale et de la haute Albanie. On prétend que les Albanais affectent de se montrer mécontents ; qu'ils ne pourront jamais, même en le voulant, donner suite à leurs menaces, les moyens nécessaires pour organiser la résistance leur faisant défaut.

On affirme, en outre, que si les Turcs retiraient leurs troupes, laissant les Grecs et les Albanais seuls en présence, on verrait que, sauf quelques désordres sans gravité, tout le monde se montrerait satisfait de l'annexion à la Grèce.

Ce ne sont là que des rêves. La nation Albanaise est plus belliqueuse, plus unie, et plus énergique que la nation Grecque.

Les Souliotes étaient des Albanais, et les héros de indépendance—les Botzari et autres—étaient aussi des Albanais. En Epire, les Albanais sont très-nombreux, et la partie occidentale leur appartient tout entière. Les Albanais sont décidés à résister jusqu'à la dernière extrémité ; l'Europe pourrait seule les arrêter ; mais la Grèce, jamais. Les moyens de résistance ne leur feront pas défaut : ils ont des armes et des Chefs. Ce serait là une lutte terrible, qu'aucun Gouvernement ne saurait encourager, et que les Grecs, surtout, auraient sérieusement à redouter.

Le royaume de Grèce ne devrait donc pas viser à des conquêtes de nature à lui créer bien des embarras à l'intérieur ; tout en défendant la cause de l'Hellénisme, il ne devrait pas s'engager dans des luttes sans profit, et qui pourraient lui être fatales.

C'est surtout par leurs colonies que les Grecs de l'antiquité ont exercé leur influence dans des pays lointains. Ils ont fait la guerre pour consolider et maintenir leurs conquêtes ; ils ne se sont imposés par la force qu'après avoir vainement essayé d'attirer à eux les populations par les bienfaits de la civilisation. En s'imposant aujourd'hui à l'Albanie, avec la protection de l'Europe, les Grecs risqueraient fort de s'aliéner tous ceux qu'ils ont su s'attacher au moyen des écoles, de la langue, du commerce, &c.

Ce ne sont pas seulement les Beys de Preveza et de Margariti qui protestent ; c'est l'Albanie tout entière qui, depuis trois siècles, ne veut pas qu'on dispose arbitrairement du sort de ses villages. Si jamais les Beys de Preveza s'alliaient aux Grecs, ils seraient sacrifiés ; ils représentent la volonté de l'Albanie qui se lève contre le Slavisme et l'Hellénisme, et refuse de s'y laisser immoler. Les Albanais sont, il est vrai, gens peu cultivés, presque barbares ; mais ils sont, en même temps, très-nombreux, forts, et belliqueux. Il faut les écouter, si l'on tient à conserver la paix, et, dans la mesure du possible, leur donner satisfaction.

Au commencement du siècle, les Albanais prirent les armes en faveur des Grecs. La lutte acharnée qu'ils avaient soutenue contre les Turcs, la perte de leurs villages, une haine commune, avaient provoqué leur attitude en faveur de la cause Hellénique. Aujourd'hui, les conditions sont changées. Quoique peu attachés aux Turcs, les Albanais ne partagent plus les haines des Grecs contre le Gouvernement Ottoman ; et, n'ayant plus les mêmes aspirations, ils ne sont plus disposés à servir la même cause.

Ce n'est pas Moukhtar Pacha qui a soulevé les Albanais : le sort de Méhémet A l'a rendu timide ; il cherche plutôt à les contenir, et pèse chacune de ses paroles, d peur de se compromettre. A son arrivée à Prevesa, la ligue Albanaise était déjà constituée. Ayant vu que les Chefs étaient hostiles à toute idée de cession de l'Epire à la Grèce, il a dû—comme on dit familièrement—ménager la chèvre et le chou, les Grecs et les Albanais.

Cette conduite a naturellement éveillé les méfiances des uns et des autres ; les Albanais le surveillent de près, et les Grecs l'accusent de connivence avec les Albanais. Toujours est-il que les Grecs se font illusion, en croyant que les Albanais s'inclineront devant la volonté de l'Europe et que, même avec l'aide des Puissances, la Grèce pourra paralyser la résistance de l'Albanie.

En présence d'une telle situation, il appartient à l'Europe, qui a recommandé à la Turquie une rectification de frontières en faveur de la Grèce, d'examiner si le droit des Albanais est fondé ; si leurs menaces ont un caractère de gravité ; enfin si, en dépit des obstacles qui ont surgi, il est opportun d'insister sur l'exécution des décisions du Congrès de Berlin à cet égard.

En attendant, il y aurait un moyen de concilier les intérêts qui sont en lutte. On pourrait céder à la Grèce une partie de l'Epire Orientale et une grande partie de la Thessalie, au besoin même la Thessalie tout entière. Mais il faut, d'abord, que l'Europe étudie à fond la question Albanaise, qui se trouve, pour ainsi dire, entre les deux pôles opposés—entre l'Hellénisme et le Slavisme.

No. 255.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 10.)

(No. 148.)
(Extract.) *Buenos, April 8, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a telegram in cypher, dated yesterday 7·45 P.M., which I received last night from Mr. Macdonell, relative to various matters of public interest.

I had telegraphed to him in the morning to report anything he might be able to ascertain in reference to the Albanian deputation.

Inclosure in No. 255.

Mr. Macdonell to Sir A. Paget.

(Telegraphic.)
(Extract.) *Rome, April 7, 1879, 7·45 P.M.*

Nothing new about Albania. Reported expedition not credited here ; if contemplated it was destined to Austrian territory. If such attempt be made Government are determined to act with energy. Albanian Chiefs have arrived and will be received by Minister for Foreign Affairs ; great sympathy is manifested.

Occupation question freely discussed, but not favourably viewed. M. Depretis said to give evasive and contradictory answers.

No. 256.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received April 10.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, April 8, 1879.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, extracts of a letter from Commander Clarke, of Her Majesty's ship "Falcon," dated at Corfu the 17th March, which have been forwarded by Vice-Admiral Sir G. Phipps Hornby, reporting the state of affairs in that island.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 256.

Commander Clarke to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Extract.) *Corfu, March 17, 1879.*

THE only circumstance I have to report from here is that on Sunday of last week (the 9th) a religious service was held in the town in memory of the insurgents who were killed at Macrinitza last year. It was got up, I believe, by a man called Basdeki, who was one of the insurgent leaders in Thessaly, and who is now in the gendarmerie here.

When the authorities heard of his intention, I understand that they put him under arrest, and sent him off to Santa Maura, but the affair was taken up by the Patriotic (or Revolutionary) Committee here, and carried out by them. I presume their intention is to keep the agitation about Thessaly alive.

No. 257.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 10.)

(No. 17 [*sic*]. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 9, 1879.*

I HAVE communicated to-day to the Sultan your telegrams Nos. 8, 10, 13, and 15, with the exception of the first sentence.

The Circular accepting the mixed occupation will not be sent.

Sultan will consult his Ministry on the Greek question, and will inform me as soon as possible as to whether he will put matter into the hands of Her Majesty's Government.

Grand Vizier is in favour of his doing so.

His Majesty begged me to keep question of Khedive a secret from his Ministers ; but I learnt that he spoke to Grand Vizier [? upon the] subject immediately after seeing me, and seemed to approve, but to be fearful of consequences.

His Majesty said that the want of preparation to facilitate Eastern Roumelian question was due to financial difficulties. If England was prepared to uphold him in the Balkans, he was ready to place himself at the head of his army to vindicate his rights. As matters stood, he had no means of entering on an offensive campaign, and it would be unpardonable to plunge into a war without prospect of carrying it to a successful issue.

He was, however, in great anxiety about Mussulmans in Eastern Roumelia.

Would they not be massacred if a declaration of independence took place, and [? if] declaration did take place should he be left alone to execute Treaty of Berlin at his risk ?

No. 258.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 10.)

(No. 38.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 9, 1879.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 19 of yesterday has just reached me—4 P.M.

Your telegram No. 20 reached me at 8 this morning.

No. 259.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 10.)

(No. 39.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 9, 1879.*

RUSSIAN Government agrees to Aleko Pasha, and has telegraphed to Prince Labanoff to press his immediate nomination.

No. 260.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 10.)

(No. 56.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 9, 1879.

EVERY impediment to conclusion of Novi-Bazar Convention seems to be removed; but Count Zichy's full powers will not reach him till to-morrow week.

No. 261.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Baveno, April* 10, 1879.

I HAVE just received a long telegram in cypher from M. Depretis stating that his information leads him to believe that the project of occupation has been abandoned by Her Majesty's Government. He refers to his answer to Russia declaring that Italian Government were not favourable to a policy of intervention, and that they were in favour of strict application of the Treaty, but they gave their consent in view of exceptional circumstances of Roumelia and under express reservation that this occupation was not to create a precedent in the event of disorders arising in other parts of the country. The consent of Turkey was included in their condition with Russia, but they did not engage themselves for the case of occupation being reduced to a *tête-à-tête* between Italy and another Power; they were ready to come to an understanding with Great Britain on the line to be followed and means to be employed, but they wished above all things to have a clear explanation with Her Majesty's Government as to eventuality of dangers against which they were bound to preserve themselves.

M. Depretis says that he has received nothing in answer to this, and he now learns from Secretary of Embassy at London that among other projects spoken of is first an occupation by Austria and Italy alone; secondly, occupation by Austria as the Delegate of Europe.

His Excellency is anxious I should inform Her Majesty's Government confidentially that neither of these projects would suit Italy. He adds, "You may say we persist in idea that the interest of Italy and England in the questions of Balkan peninsula are not divergent, and that consequently an explicit and cordial understanding is equally desirable for the two countries."

No. 262.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 10.)

(No. 141.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 9, 1879.

TO-DAY three out of four points were finished.

Financial Chapter passed with slight alterations. Turks proposed for Prelates of all religions at first applying for Berat either to the Porte or to the Governor-General.

Language of larger population to be used concurrently with that of the minority, provided that the latter number one-half of the larger.

This is very satisfactory to the Greeks. Vacouf alone remains, which will be finished on Tuesday.

There is a large emigration of Turks to Adrianople from Eastern Roumelia, where they are being roughly treated.

No. 263.

The Earl of Donoughmore to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, April* 9, 1879.

A LARGE number of Turkish inhabitants from districts Yeni-Zagra and Yamboli have gone to Adrianople; others are on the way thither from Haskoi and Hermanli.

In the neighbourhood of Tatar-Bazardjik and Philippopolis Turks have been raided, and are coming to towns. Governor of Adrianople has applied to Russian authorities that [those] intending emigration receive facilities.

There seems to be a general movement of Turkish migration from the province, occasioned by violence of Bulgarians, which has not been great for some time, but has now burst out afresh.

(Sent to Commissioner.)

No. 264.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, April* 10, 1879, 5 P.M.

SERVIAN Government has invited the Powers by a Circular to agree to abolish Capitulations.

As compensation, would Her Majesty's Government consent to negotiate a Consular Convention for a term of years on following basis:—

1. With respect to real property, rights of acquisition, besides rights and exemptions enumerated in Article No. 1 project of Commercial Treaty between Great Britain and Roumania.

2. With regard to the assessment of imposts, right of British subjects to claim diplomatic intervention on their behalf.

3. With respect of estate and British subjects dying in Servia, the exclusive administration of same, or, as an alternative, the stipulations in Article II of the Treaty between Great Britain and Portugal.

No. 265.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 10, 1879, 6 P.M.

RUSSIA consents to nomination of Aleko for Governor. Get it done as rapidly as you can.

No. 266.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 16. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 10, 1879, 6·30 P.M.

YOURS Secret the 9th April.

Our promise to assist Sultan in compelling evacuation of Russia by stipulated time still holds good; but in repressing any insurrection of his own subjects, if they are not apparently assisted by any foreign Power, he must necessarily rely on his own resources.

Therefore it is so important that, by agreement with Austria and Greece, he should diminish the present strain upon his military force.

No. 267.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 503. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 10, 1879.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatch No. 279, marked Secret, of the 28th ultimo, giving an account of your audience of the Sultan on the previous day.

Your language on that occasion, and the letter which you subsequently addressed to His Majesty, as reported in that despatch, are entirely approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 268.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 504.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 10, 1879.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatch No. 257 of the 21st ultimo, reporting the steps taken by you to obtain the execution of the decision already arrived at by the Council of Ministers, that Kiamil Pasha should be recalled from the appointment of Vali of Aleppo.

Your proceedings are fully approved.

I also approve the letter to the Armenian Patriarch upon this subject, copy of which is inclosed in your despatch No. 254 of the 21st March.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 269.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 505. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 10, 1879.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatch No. 245, Secret, of the 15th ultimo, containing the report of your very interesting conversation with the Sultan on the previous evening.

Your language to His Majesty on that occasion has the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 270.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 510.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 10, 1879.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, forwarding copies of notes which he has exchanged with Prince Gortchacow, conveying the reciprocal assurances made by the two Governments to one another in regard to Eastern Roumelia.

Her Majesty's Government have engaged, on their part, to impress upon the Porte the necessity of respecting and maintaining inviolate the rights and privileges to be granted to the Province of Eastern Roumelia by the Constitution now being drawn up by the European Commission; while the Russian Government, on the other side, have promised that they will in no way countenance any opposition on the part of the population of the province to the new arrangements, and that they will use all their influence to procure their peaceable acceptance of them.

I have to request that you will inform the Porte of this exchange of notes, and will communicate copies of them to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 271.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 523 A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 10, 1879.

HER Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh reports by telegraph that the Russian Government have assented to the nomination of Aleko Pasha as Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia, and that Prince Labanoff has been instructed to press the Porte to take the necessary steps at once in order to carry out this nomination.

I have likewise directed you by telegraph to use every effort in the same sense, in order that the selection of Aleko Pasha may be confirmed as rapidly as possible.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 272.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 525. Secret.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 10, 1879.

I HAVE received your Secret telegram No. 317 of yesterday's date, in which you state that you had been informed by the Sultan that, provided that England was prepared to uphold him in the Balkans, His Majesty was ready to place himself at the head of his army in order to vindicate his rights.

In reply, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government have not withdrawn from the engagement they have taken that they will assist the Sultan to enforce the evacuation of Eastern Roumelia by the Russia troops if this has not been already done within the stipulated time.

But it is most important that you should impress upon His Majesty that he must rely upon his own resources for the repression of any insurrection on the part of his subjects, unless there is evidence to show that they are receiving assistance from any foreign Power.

It is this consideration which makes it so important that the Sultan should not lose a day in coming to an arrangement with Austria and with Greece, and thus diminish the present strain upon his military force.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 273.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major-General Hamley.

(No. 7.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 10, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 6 of the 2nd instant, I have to inform you that Captain E. R. Elles, R.A., has been appointed to be one of the officers to assist you in your duties as Her Majesty's Commissioner for the demarcation of the frontiers of Bulgaria in the place of Captain Noyes, who has requested to be relieved of the duty in consequence of the state of his health.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 274.

The Marquis of Salisbury to General Hamley.

(No. 9.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 10, 1879.

YOU will find inclosed with my despatch No. 8 of this day's date, copy of a note which I have received from the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, intimating the anxiety of his Government to see the operations of the Commission for the delimitation of the frontiers between Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia terminated before the evacuation of the Russian troops has been completed.

I likewise transmitted to you a copy of the reply which I returned to M. Bartho-

lomei, and I have now to instruct you to take measures in concert with your colleagues, in order that the labours of the Commission may be commenced with the least possible delay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 275.

Consul Reade to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 11.)

(No. 1. Political.)
My Lord, *Smyrna, March 24, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a despatch I this day addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Constantinople with reference to the disturbed state of this city consequent upon the inability of the police to repress the perpetration of street outrages, and the measures taken by the Governor-General for the restoration of order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure in No. 275.

Consul Reade to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Smyrna, March 24, 1879.*

REFERRING your Excellency to my past correspondence relatively to the unsatisfactory state of the police administration of this vilayet, I have the honour to report that the condition of this city, so far as regards the security of life and property, is become, within the last few days, more critical than ever.

The street outrages which, on former occasions, and notably by my despatch of the 24th October last, I have had to bring to the notice of Her Majesty's Ambassador, are perpetrated with more frequency than hitherto, as well as with the same impunity; and the fairer portion of the community, which has, until very recently, enjoyed a comparative degree of immunity from personal assault, is no longer respected by the foot-pads. One of the several ladies who have had to do with these ruffians was, a day or two ago, thrown down on the ground in one of the principal streets, and at an early hour of the afternoon, and forcibly dispossessed of her gold watch, bracelets, and other trinkets, as well as purse and money.

The situation is further aggravated by the reappearance in our midst of some desperate characters who had been condemned to penal servitude for a long term of years, but have contrived (nobody knows how) to escape from their place of confinement in the fortress of San Jean d'Acre. One of these desperadoes—by name Codo Michaeli—has resumed his business of shoplifting and highway robbery with marked success, and threatened openly to murder the chief Interpreter of this Consulate, for having taken a part in the legal proceeding which led to his conviction, four years ago.

In view of this state of things, and of the disturbance accruing therefrom to the industrial and commercial pursuits as well as social tranquillity of the peaceable inhabitants, my French and Austrian colleagues accompanied me in a representation which we have felt it our duty to make conjointly to the Governor-General respecting the urgency of adopting such measures of vigour as may be best adapted to the circumstances.

His Highness, who appears fully alive to the gravity of the situation, informed us of the steps he had taken to check, as far as possible, the evil of which we complained, but regretted that the police force at his disposal, besides being too ill-paid, was numerically insufficient to enable him to assure us that those steps will result in a completely successful issue. He added he had made up his mind to write or telegraph immediately to the Grand Vizier for the purpose of requesting that he may be furnished with extraordinary powers for dealing with the emergency, and begged us to ask our respective Chiefs at Constantinople to support, as far as they may be able to do so, his representation to Khaireddin Pasha. Among the measures taken in the meanwhile for ensuring the public peace is that of employing patrolling parties of soldiers.

An order issued for the early closing of all cafés will, it is hoped, also tend to create a separation of interests between *cafégis* and thieves, and circumscribe the opportunities for planning and working out the depredatory schemes of the latter.

The Pasha has furthermore applied to the Grand Vizier for authority to execute certain assassins upon whom sentence of death has been formally passed, and I trust it may not be deemed inconvenient by your Excellency to recommend that his request may be acceded to.

An example of the kind suggested by the Pasha's application is absolutely necessary to dispel the conviction, which is unfortunately entertained by almost every person here, that murderers will always escape with impunity so long as they have to do with Turkish officials.

If, too, as we are given to understand, some scheme of reform in the police administration of this country is contemplated, I venture to suggest that the experiment may be tried first in this vilayet, and not, as it is also rumoured is to be the case, in some other part of the Sultan's dominions, where the general interests of foreign Powers are, in every point of view, of far less importance than at Smyrna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. F. READE.

No. 276.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 11.)

(No. 32. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, March 31, 1879.*

IN my despatch No. 30 of the 21st instant, I had the honour to direct your Lordship's attention to the rumours that were afloat concerning the efforts said to be making to create fresh disturbances in Crete. The report that volunteers were being enrolled for service in Epirus and Thessaly turned out, as I suspected, to be unfounded, nor are there any symptoms showing an organized attempt to excite disturbances. There is no concealing the fact, however, that the island is in an unsettled state, due in a great degree to the impression that its interests are neglected by the authorities at Constantinople. When the Cretan representatives assembled early in the year to devise plans for the better administration of the island, they imagined that attention would be paid to their proposals, some of which were of great practical utility, and nowise encroached on the authority of the Porte. The Christians were quite prepared for the rejection of such of their demands as had met with opposition from the Mussulmans, but every one seemed to expect that the Porte would make no difficulty about according institutions which were manifestly for the general good. Above all, great anxiety was shown that the Government should keep its promise to allot half the customs dues for the expenses of the local administration, which, without that addition, must shortly collapse from want of funds to pay its employés. Up to the present time the Porte has preserved an obstinate silence on all the demands put forward by the General Assembly, which is quite in keeping with its former practice of treating their demands with undisguised contempt. Great disappointment is felt thereat by the large class of respectable Cretans who have a stake in the prosperity of the country, and who had hoped that stability would have been given to the existing arrangement with the Porte by timely concessions on its part to the more reasonable demands of the Assembly. As matters are turning out the discontented Cretans, whose numbers are always augmenting from the continued want of prosperity, rather rejoice at the failure of a policy which they never approved.

The present situation is indeed far from satisfactory. The revenue which the authorities had counted on has fallen far short of the sum computed, owing to the refusal in many places to pay tithes. The inhabitants of certain districts have been very remiss in this respect, and when once it became known that some had refused payment, great difficulty was experienced in getting in revenue anywhere. It is calculated that in another month the local Treasury will be exhausted, and the tithes yielded by the grain crops, which are not thrashed till July and this year are likely to be deficient, are never considerable. A force of gendarmes have indeed been enrolled, but it is composed of native Cretans, who for the most part serve in their own districts, and who cannot be counted on to put down disorders committed, maybe by kinsmen

of their own. There is no *esprit de corps* amongst them, and when their pay begins to come in irregularly they will certainly desert. There seems, therefore, every prospect before long of anarchy getting the upper hand, when bands of lawless men may be expected to appear in different places in order to prey upon the more peaceable inhabitants, and particularly on the Mussulmans. This will be the signal for the latter to flock to the towns, where they will inflict on the Christians the evils suffered by themselves.

Temporary relief from such a prospect may be afforded by the Porte at once granting half the proceeds of the customs dues to the local administration, whereby to meet the expenses of the police.

The Kaimakam of Sphakia called upon me yesterday, and told me that only the shadow of authority remained to him in that district. The police force, consisting of eighty men, are natives of the place, but they will not carry out the orders of their officer if they happen to disapprove them. Smuggling is becoming a lucrative trade there, small sailing craft coming over from Greece with tobacco, gunpowder, and salt, which are distributed over the neighbouring districts to the great detriment of the customs revenue at Canea.

In appointing Photiades Pasha Governor of Crete for a period of five years, the Porte might have rendered his Excellency's task much easier if it had hastened to accord those demands of the General Assembly to which no exception could reasonably be made. The persistent neglect of those demands robs his Excellency's administration of the popularity which his personal qualities are so well calculated to command for it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 277.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 11.)

(No. 290.) *Constantinople, April* 4, 1879.

My Lord,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 277 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Council of Ministers discussed the question of a mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia on the 30th instant, when it was decided not to reject the proposal, and a Circular was adopted which in fact, by the wording of its conclusion, implied acceptance. This part was, however, subsequently cancelled, and the reply of the Porte, without refusing the mixed occupation, made certain suggestions which it conceived might adjourn the necessity of a final decision. I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a résumé of the Circular, as it was communicated to me by the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 1st instant.

I represented to his Excellency that it was extremely desirable that it should not be supposed that the Porte refused its consent to a proposal made in the interests of the Treaty of Berlin by Russia and accepted by all the Powers, and his Excellency was careful to point out to me that the Circular in no way rejected it, and said that he would telegraph to the Ottoman Representatives abroad to that effect.

Yesterday the Grand Vizier requested me to telegraph to your Lordship to ask whether Her Majesty's Government would consent to the nomination of Aleko Pasha as Governor-General of the province. His Highness said that Prince Lobanoff had informed him that the appointment would be agreeable to his Government, and that if it were made they would support it, and do their best to induce the inhabitants of Eastern Roumelia to receive it as full satisfaction. His Highness added that he was of opinion that the appointment of Aleko Pasha, who was of the Orthodox religion, of noble Bulgarian origin, and a man of polished manners and gentle bearing, would be calculated materially to enhance the prospect of a peaceful installation of the Sultan's authority, and he hoped Her Majesty's Government would agree to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 277.

Carathéodory Pasha to Turkish Representatives.

(Extrait.) *Le* 31 *Mars*, 1879.

[APRÈS avoir résumé la communication du Ministre d'Angleterre la dépêche dit :—]

La Sublime Porte a attaché une valeur d'autant plus grande à ces explications du Ministre de Sa Majesté Britannique, qu'elles tendent à démontrer que le désir des Puissances est de lui prêter dans cette conjoncture aussi leur aide efficace pour l'exécution des stipulations du Traité de Berlin concernant la Roumélie Orientale. A en juger, en effet, par tout ce qui nous est revenu, la situation de cette province présenterait une gravité qu'il importe même de ne point dissimuler afin de dégager entièrement la responsabilité du Gouvernement Ottoman.

Ayant fait l'exécution du Traité de Berlin l'objet de ses plus constants efforts, la Sublime Porte a non seulement assumé en pleine connaissance de cause tous les devoirs que ce grande acte international lui imposait vis-à-vis de la Roumélie Orientale, mais elle a la conscience de n'avoir rien négligé pour prévenir toute préoccupation de ce côté. Par contre, elle s'est déjà vue à plusieurs reprises dans la nécessité de signaler à l'attention des Cabinets amis une série de faits dont l'effet immanquable devait être de préparer dans cette province les éléments d'une crise regrettable. Contrairement aux stipulations du Traité, la population non-Bulgare s'est trouvée en Roumélie Orientale en butte à une persécution systématique que rien n'a pu faire fléchir. Les travaux de la Commission, qui d'après le Traité auraient dû être terminés dans trois mois, ont rencontré des obstacles inattendus. L'administration financière de la province, qui devait être remise à la Commission, a été en fait soustraite à son autorité. Et pendant qu'on se livrait à une distribution d'armes sur une grande échelle et à la formation hâtive de nombreuses milices, les autorités, qui retenaient en mains l'administration civile de la province, montraient envers les agitateurs une condescendance qui encourageait bien des mauvaises passions chez une grande partie de la population. Les choses en arrivèrent à un tel point que l'on a vu s'organiser sur plusieurs points des manifestations turbulentes pour déclarer que la volonté des Bulgares était de s'opposer à l'exécution du Traité de Berlin et à l'œuvre de la Commission Européenne. Sans se laisser émouvoir par ces agitations factices la Sublime Porte n'en persista pas moins dans la voie que le Traité lui avait tracée, et afin d'assurer le rétablissement du fonctionnement régulier de l'administration provinciale le Gouvernement Impérial faisait choix d'un Gouverneur-Général qui à part une exception réunit les suffrages de tous les Cabinets. Un peu plus tard les armées Russes ayant évacué le Vilayet d'Andrinople, la Sublime Porte s'attacha à y réinstaller ses autorités sans donner lieu à aucune plainte, à aucun désordre ; une amnistie générale jeta le voile sur tous les méfaits commis dans l'intervalle, et tous les mesures de la nouvelle administration furent empreintes d'un esprit de modération qu'on ne saurait méconnaître. Si donc malgré cela l'agitation n'en a pas moins continué dans la Roumélie Orientale, et si à l'approche de l'évacuation de l'armée Russe on cherche à y épouvanter les populations par l'idée du retour du Vali Ottoman, il serait juste de n'y voir que la continuation de ce même système de manœuvres et d'intrigues au profit duquel les fauteurs de troubles ont su si bien exploiter jusqu'à présent la crédulité populaire. On a peine à s'expliquer, en effet, comment et pourquoi la rentrée du Vali Ottoman pourrait inspirer la moindre inquiétude aux populations Roumélioles. L'organisation élaboré par la Commission Européenne pour tous les services administratifs de la province est maintenant connue. Elle est conçue dans le sens le plus libéral, elle assure à la Roumélie Orientale une autonomie administrative des plus complètes. Au fond toute l'administration est confié à la population elle-même ; l'ordre n'y doit être maintenu que par une milice et une gendarmerie locale. Aucune intervention illégitime de l'autorité centrale n'est à craindre, et le représentant du Sultan y trouvera des pouvoirs si bien réglés et si rigoureusement définis qu'il n'est après tout chargé que de faire fonctionner le mécanisme administratif, sans qu'il se puisse permettre le moindre excès, la moindre velléité d'arbitraire. Indépendamment des garanties morales que doit présenter dans la personne du Gouverneur-Général un choix approuvé par toute l'Europe, la population trouve donc dans les principes organiques même de son nouveau Statut les garanties les plus sûres et les plus efficaces.

Le retour du régime Ottoman dans la Province de la Roumélie Orientale se résumant ainsi à l'installation d'un Vali, et la sphère de cette action de ce Vali se trouvant ainsi parfaitement limitée et acceptée par toute l'Europe, il semble qu'il soit superflu d'insister davantage pour faire voir combien les frayeurs auxquelles on essaie

de faire croire sont difficiles à admettre ou à expliquer. Que si maintenant on suppose que, rebelle à toute évidence, l'esprit d'une partie de la population Rouméliote se trouve en proie à des idées toutes autres, et qu'on a peine même à concevoir, il a lieu de craindre à plus forte raison que la présence d'un corps d'occupation étranger ne donne matière à des interprétations qui viennent à l'encontre du but qu'on se propose. Rien ne serait plus facile aux agitateurs que d'interpréter cette démarche comme une preuve de faiblesse de l'Empire, et du désir de l'Europe de modifier les stipulations du Traité de Berlin ; et une fois entraînées dans cette voie les populations Roumélioles pourraient être amenées à penser qu'elles ont tout à espérer et rien à redouter.

Aussi en présence de cette éventualité, qui après tout n'est pas improbable, et des graves inconvénients qu'elle ne manquera pas d'amener, la Sublime Porte ne pense pas inutile de présenter aux Cabinets amis certaines observations sur la manière dont on pourrait tirer profit de la mesure proposée sans donner prétexte aux inconvénients signalés plus haut et de manière à sauvegarder l'esprit et la lettre du Traité de Berlin.

La prolongation des pouvoirs de la Commission pendant un an, et la présence de ce corps dans la Province pour aider le Vali par des délibérations prises à la majorité du voix à mettre pendant ce temps à exécution la nouvelle organisation, suffirait pour entourer la nouvelle Administration de tout le prestige moral qu'on pourrait désirer. D'un autre côté l'armée Ottomane se bornerait à occuper immédiatement Bourgas, un point du côté d'Ichtiman et quelqu'autre point d'un accès facile, sauf à occuper successivement et à mesure que les circonstances le permettront sans lutte et sans effusion de sang les autres points qu'il sera jugé nécessaire de fortifier sur les Balkans, après que, bien entendu, la Commission de la Délimitation aura achevé son travail. D'ailleurs et en présence de la gravité des événements la Sublime Porte n'est pas disposée à faire de la personalité de son Représentant dans la province une difficulté insurmontable. Si l'Europe trouve nécessaire et indispensable de faire précéder l'entrée du Vali Ottoman par un période de transition, la Porte ne s'opposera pas à ce qu'un lieutenant du Vali, sur le choix duquel les Puissances s'entendront avec elle, pût et conservât l'Administration de la province pendant tout le temps pour lequel les pouvoirs de la Commission auront été prorogés. Ces mesures semblent pour le moment à la Porte de nature à calmer les inquiétudes les moins justifiées, et rien ne serait plus facile que de convenir d'un commun accord de leur exécution. En ce plaçant dans cet ordre d'idées la Sublime Porte est d'avis que sa proposition est non-seulement de nature à ne rien ôter à l'efficacité morale de la mesure arrêté par les Puissances en principe, mais qu'elle sauvegarde l'esprit du Traité aussi bien que tous les intérêts en cause ; et qu'en même temps qu'elle donne aux populations Roumélioles le temps d'une réflexion plus mûre, et servirait d'acheminement à l'établissement définitif elle dispense pour le moment les Cabinets amis, à la bonne volonté desquels la Sublime Porte rend hommage, des sacrifices et des embarras que peut-être la marche des événements même pourra leur épargner.

Veuillez développer ces considérations au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, &c.

No. 278.

Major Wilson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 11.)

(No. 40.) *Ordnance Survey Office, Phœnix Park, Dublin, April 7*, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have forwarded the documents relating to the Servian Boundary Commission to Captain Anderson, C.M.G., R.E., who I understand is to succeed me as Her Majesty's Commissioner. I have also handed over to Captain Anderson the instruments and other stores purchased for the use of the Commission.

In closing my connection with the Commission, I would beg to bring specially to your Lordship's notice the valuable assistance which I have always received from Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg, Coldstream Guards, in carrying out the duties entrusted to me; and I trust I may be allowed to express my appreciation of the cordial manner in which Mr. Gould, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Belgrade, forwarded the objects of the Commission on every occasion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON, *Major, R.E.*,
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

No. 279.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 11.)

(No. 319.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 10, 1879.

I LEARN that French Commissioners for Eastern Roumelia continue to recommend nomination of French Governor-General. I have said that I am sure Her Majesty's Government would not consent to a Governor-General who was a subject of one of the Signatory Powers, and [? Wolff] used same language to the French Chargé d'Affaires.

No. 280.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 11.)

(No. 320.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 10, 1879.

I [? pressed][a] Grand Vizier this morning for an answer on the Greek question.

His Highness said that the Porte was extremely anxious to preserve either Prevesa or Volo, and if we could do that for them, Turkish Government was ready to put matter into our hands. I replied that it was not a question any longer of Volo or Prevesa.

Her Majesty's Government, if the matter were placed at once absolutely in their hands, were confident that they could save Janina and Larissa. If Porte refused, she would lose these towns as well as Prevesa and Volo, and I insisted on having an answer this evening.

I subsequently held the same language to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 281.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 11.)

(No. 321.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 10, 1879.

THE Head of the Political Department came to me at 7 this evening with a line which Turkey could offer Greece, and a message that the Porte consented to place itself in the hands of Her Majesty's Government, but that it was necessary that the rectification of the frontier should be made on the basis indicated.

The line started from Elia on the west (Kiepert's), north (*sic*) to above Kalavrytas, then to Karditza, Pharsala, Volo, and to somewhere near Zagara, on the coast.

I said I could send the message, but that I feared that it would be of little use, as the proposal of Her Majesty's Government was that the Porte should place itself absolutely in their hands, in which case they were confident that they could save Janina and Larissa.

On returning from dinner to telegraph, I received a note from the same gentleman requesting me not to telegraph to your Lordship on the subject till I hear further.

No. 282.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 11.)

(No. 40.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April* 10, 1879.

A RUSSIAN Circular was dispatched the day before yesterday to London, proposing that majority principle should be admitted in Delimitation Commissions in regard to all disputed points of detail, but that where a great principle was involved, it should be referred to the consideration of European Cabinets.

For instance, Treaty describes the boundary between Bulgaria and Roumelia as following [? from] a certain point the "principal chain" of the Balkans, M. de Giers

[a] Group omitted.

would understand principal chain to be indicated by watershed. This is one of the questions of principle which he explained should not be left to the decision of the Commission. He admits, however, that as the Treaty of Berlin has given the Balkans as a line of defence to Turkey, if the watershed principle should not lend itself here and there to such a purpose, a defensive line must be secured even though exact watershed should be overpart; and such a point as this he would leave, as I understand him, to a decision of the majority.

No. 283.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 11.)

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 10, 1879.

COUNT ZICHY has telegraphed that Porte consents to mixed occupation, and is preparing a Circular to the Powers for the arrangement of details.

Count Andrassy therefore believes that difficulties proceed rather from Russia than from Turkey, but he fully agrees with your Lordship that whether the scheme stands or falls, the Russian evacuation at the time fixed must be insisted upon.

On Saturday Count Andrassy goes to Hungary for some days.

No. 284.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 11.)

(No. 59.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 10, 1879.

ALTHOUGH formal full powers for the signature of the Novi-Bazar Convention are only now being forwarded, the Austrian Government hope that the Porte will be satisfied with telegraphic [? authority] to sign, which has been sent to Ambassador, without waiting for exhibition of written full powers.

No. 285.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 11.)

(No. 26. Secret and Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, April* 11, 1879.

FRENCH Acting Agent at Bucharest has been to this Foreign Office, probably under instructions from his Government, seeking to elicit some further declaration on the Jewish question.

All such attempts are not likely to produce any effect, as the Roumanian Government, relying on what has been just accomplished, and comparing the results with what has been done for Servia, is apt to look upon certain Powers as systematically hostile to it, and to grow more and more indifferent to representations of Cabinets who show so little desire to exercise moral influence, whilst holding aloof from regular diplomatic intercourse.

Similar causes operate unfavourably on termination of our Treaty of Commerce.

No. 286.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 11, 1879.

JOIN Count Zichy in urging Porte to sign Austrian Convention without waiting for full powers.

No. 287.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 11, 1879, 2 P.M.

TELL General Hamley that the Russians are pressing that the Commission should begin its work at once. If they commence without delay they will have at least two months before the Russian force is finally withdrawn, and during that time the question of an escort need not be raised. When does he propose to start?

No. 288.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 529.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 11, 1879.

I HAVE requested you by telegraph this day to join Count Zichy in urging the Porte to sign the Convention with Austria without waiting for the arrival of his Excellency's full powers from Vienna.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 289.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 531.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 11, 1879.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a note which I have received from the Russian Chargé d'Affaires in London, dated the 9th instant, together with a copy of my reply, from which you will learn that the Russian Government are pressing that the Delimitation Commission for the frontiers between Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia should commence its work at once.

I have accordingly instructed you by telegraph to represent to General Hamley that if the operations of the Commission are commenced without delay, there will be at least two months to run before the Russian force is finally withdrawn, and during that time it will not be necessary to raise the question of an escort for the protection of the Commissioners.

I should be glad to learn from you how soon General Hamley proposes to start from Constantinople, and what is the earliest date at which he thinks it will be possible to begin work.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 290.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 12.)

(No. 84.)
My Lord, *Athens, April* 4, 1879.

THE Epirote Committee of Athens was received by the King a few days ago, and presented a petition asking His Majesty to do all in his power to ensure that the recommendations of the Congress of Berlin relative to the Greek frontier should be carried out, and especially that the province and city of Janina should be included within the new Greek frontier.

The King, in answer, assured the Committee that the national interests were the subject of his constant thought, and that he would do all he could to satisfy the wishes of the nation. "To-day, however," he added, "the solution of the Greek question depends upon the action of the Great Powers, with which my Government is doing all that it is possible to do in favour of the natural aspirations."

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 291.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 12.)

(No. 399.)
My Lord, *Paris, April 10, 1879.*

IN a telegram dated the 7th instant, which your Lordship did me the honour to repeat to me in your telegram No. 6 of the following day, Sir Drummond Wolff reported to you that he had been told by his French colleagues in the Eastern Roumelian Commission that the Russians intended to evacuate that province suddenly and abruptly on the 3rd of next month.

I asked M. Waddington yesterday whether he had received any intelligence to this effect.

He answered that he had not heard that the Russians intended to quit Eastern Roumelia abruptly, but that he felt strongly the importance of proper measures being taken in time to establish a new Government, and provide for the maintenance of public order when the moment arrived at which the Russians would be bound or entitled to withdraw.

I inquired also of M. Waddington whether he had any information as to a deputation, of which M. Gueshoff was to be a member, and which was stated to be coming to Paris and London in order to demand the union of Eastern Roumelia with Bulgaria.

M. Waddington said that he had heard such a deputation spoken of, but that he did not recollect the name of Gueshoff having been mentioned.

I reminded him that I had told him some time ago that your Lordship had declared that you would not receive any deputation of the kind, and I suggested that it would be very desirable that he also should decline to receive any deputation or any individual who should come on such an errand.

M. Waddington replied that, when the intended deputation had been mentioned to him, he had said that it would be very difficult for him to receive any persons who wished to approach him with a proposal to consent to a modification of the Treaty of Berlin.

He did not, however, tell me positively that he would not see M. Gueshoff or an Eastern Roumelian deputation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 292.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 12.)

(No. 59.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 11, 1879.*

COUNT ZICHY telegraphs that the Porte proposes to appoint Aleko Pasha Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia, having ascertained that Russia will accept him. Count Andrassy, without having a high opinion of him, will make no objection. From my own knowledge of the Pasha, I should consider him little fitted to make an efficient Governor.

In the same telegram Count Zichy speaks of Porte's acceptance of mixed occupation, and as the Austrian Ambassador at Rome reports that Italian Government will take part in it, Count Andrassy is perplexed by your telegram to me of the 9th.

No. 293.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 12.)

(No. 60.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 11, 1879.*

IN a despatch to Count Zichy, Count Andrassy has conveyed his opinion about mixed occupation as he had explained it to the late Turkish Ambassador on taking leave of him.

He had stated that the measure was proposed in the interest of the Porte, which would have a right to require that the occupation, under the control of the European

Commission, should only last for a year, and should ensure tranquillity of the province, whilst Organic Law was being brought into operation, which could only be done by the disarming of populations, and the formation of a militia such as had been intended.

He intimated his opinion that an abandonment of right to the Balkan garrisons would be equivalent to the sacrifice of the province and to its union with Bulgaria.

[? He*] recommend [? ed*] that the Porte should place strong garrisons at Bourgas, Mustapha Pasha, and Djuma, as it has a right by Treaty to do, that it should not have in Eastern Roumelia any garrison or troops except a contingent equal to that of each of the allies [group wrong] like theirs under the [group wrong] Commission. This last point was not clear in the despatch, but Count Andrassy told me that it was his meaning, for he regarded it as indispensable that in any occupation the Turks must have their contingent on the same footing as the other Powers.

With regard to Balkan garrisons, he would not recommend that they should be sent at once, but believes if the occupation takes place and the [group wrong] is pacified, [? they might be] passed through country without danger.

He says that he has been obliged to express himself without being acquainted with what has passed between your Lordship and the Russian Government, but he hopes your view will coincide with his.

No. 294.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, April 11, 1879.*

FOLLOWING telegraphed to Mr. Mulet:—

"With reference to my telegram of 29th, Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs now informs me that the Russian Government, having accepted to represent Principality at Constantinople, and Ambassador having already made proposal to the Porte, Prince cannot, for the present at all events, have recourse to any other means for commencing friendly relations.

"His Highness hopes British Government will use its influence to bring about the intercourse which is so necessary for the satisfactory progress of affairs between Principality and Turkey.

No. 295.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 12, 6·30 P.M.)

(No. 60.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, April 12, 1879, 3 P.M.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 399 of 10th, French Minister for Foreign Affairs tells me that he shall receive Gueshoff and another Roumelian Delegate this afternoon, but shall say to them that although as they have come so far to see him he has been unwilling to put upon them the affront of not receiving them, he can only tell them that they must not expect to obtain consent of the French Government to any modification whatever of the Treaty of Berlin; that the best thing they can do is to make friends with the Turks and live on good terms with them.

No. 296.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 12.)

(No. 142.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 12, 1879.*

I CONSIDER as very dangerous the mobilization of the gymnastic societies generally, as well as their being sent to Rhodope. That district is now tranquil, the insurgents having submitted to Réouf Pasha. The societies will be merely Christian Bashi-Bazouks, and, in the present revival of outrages and agitation against the Turks,

* Group wrong.

their presence as a body will be most mischievous. Both Todleben and Stolipine assured me they were merely instituted for local defence. The order for mobilization, though drawn up, is not yet published, and perhaps might still be stopped by representations at St. Petersburgh.

I told General Hamley, who asked for my opinion, that I thought his work had better begin to the west, so as to obtain [for] Turkey and Eastern Roumelia the districts near Ichtiman now attached to Sophia. If you agree, he would be glad of a telegraphic instruction to that effect before Tuesday.

No. 297.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 12.)

(No. 323.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 12, 1879.*

COUNT ZICHY requests me to say nothing about full powers, as it might suggest a difficulty which has not been raised. His Excellency hopes to begin on Monday. He has received instructions to press for mixed occupation. [?] Have spoken to him in the sense of your telegram No. 15, and he will, in consequence, not act on his instructions.

No. 298.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 12.)

(No. 324.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 12, 1879.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 19, General Hamley wishes to start at the earliest moment, and if the Commission, the members of which are not yet all here, is assembled on the 15th, he will press for the immediate departure for the frontier, at any rate, for the surveying party, if the Commission itself is not ready.

No. 299.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 12, 1879, 12·45 P.M.*

YOURS 320 and 321 respecting Greece received. Your proceedings are entirely approved.

No. 300.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 12, 1879, 2 P.M.*

IS German Commissioner for Bulgarian Delimitation appointed? It is most important they should get to work at once.

No. 301.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 12, 3·30 P.M.*

WE should be very glad to know whether France will appoint Commissioners under the Ottoman Loan scheme if we do.

No. 302.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 12, 1879, 4·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 10th April, the language of M. Depretis scarcely agrees with that of Tornielli, reported in your No. 32, who said that Italy consented on condition seven Powers agreed to co-operate.

Without having pronounced against mixed occupation in principle, we have found so many practical difficulties that, in view of the shortness of the time, we have been trying to make arrangements for the immediate necessity which do not depend on mixed occupation, but which do not exclude it.

No. 303.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office. April 12, 1879, 5·15 P.M.*

YOURS No. 59. I have before me telegram from Mr. Macdonell, reporting that Italy had answered Russia that she consented on the condition that all the seven Powers should participate, which is equivalent to a refusal. The opinion of Turkey has changed more than once. I understand her latest view to be that neither Russia nor Turkey should take part, but only England and Austria. But Turkey has had no opportunity of expressing a formal opinion; for Russia has, as far as I know, made no communication to her, and has never assented to the condition that she should participate. As France and Germany definitely refuse, the scheme is not in a hopeful state.

In consequence of all this reluctance we are by no means anxious to press it, for we fear it may end in England being expected by herself to keep order in half of the province, of which the population hate the English almost as much as they do the Turks. We entirely concur with Count Andrassy in objecting to any surrender by the Turks of their right to occupy the Balkans, though perhaps they may prudently delay the exercise of it for a little time.

We have accepted Aleko on proposition of the Turks, who answer for him. Rustem appears to be too much frightened to undertake the work.

We agree to proposal that Commissioners shall be prolonged for a year with majority vote, in order to supervise action of Governor in calling in Turkish troops.

No. 304.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 192.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April 12, 1879.*

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires called to read to me a Circular from Prince Gortchacow on the question of the decision of disputed points which might arise in the Frontier Commissions by the vote of the majority; he did not, however, leave with me a copy of the document.

Its general purport was to the effect that the Russian Government would consent to a majority vote in questions of detail, but that questions of principle must be referred to the Cabinets. It instanced as questions of principle the controversy on the Roumanian boundary near Silistria, and the doctrine that the chain of the Balkans meant the watershed of the Balkans, which might, however, be overpassed in a northerly direction where necessary for the defence of Turkey.

I pressed him to know in what sense I was to understand the distinction between principles and details.

He stated that the concession of an advantage to Turkey, under the Article in the Treaty, over the strict line of watershed, was a principle.

I asked him whether the application of that concession in each individual spot where it might be demanded on behalf of Turkey, and disputed on behalf of Russia, was to be looked upon as a principle or as a detail. This question he was unable to answer

M. Barthelomei then asked me what was the condition of the negotiations for the mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia.

I said that the consent of Turkey had been originally refused, but that I now understood that her objections were somewhat modified, but that the consent of Italy had been given with a condition which was impracticable. The negotiations were now in a dormant condition, owing partly to the fact that having been originated by Russia they no longer received any impulsion from that quarter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 305.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 478.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April* 12, 1879.

THE French Ambassador came to take leave of me on the 5th instant, before returning for a short time to France.

His Excellency asked me whether I had any message that he should take to M. Waddington.

I expressed to him the desire which Her Majesty's Government had entertained to act, as far as possible, with France upon the subject of the Greek negotiations, and I also pressed upon his Excellency very earnestly the necessity, which I had previously pointed out to him on more than one occasion, of coming to a speedy decision on the Tariff question, in the early solution of which so large a portion of the English textile manufacturers were deeply interested.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 306.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 479.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April* 12, 1879.

THE French Chargé d'Affaires called, on the 7th instant, to speak to me with respect to the Greek negotiations.

He said that possibly M. Waddington, though disputing the views which I entertained, would not be inclined to insist on the cession of the town of Janina, but he thought that if this cession was made to the Greeks, compensation for it on the Thessalian side should be enforced against them, and he proposed to extend the frontier northwards beyond the Peneus, so as to include the plain of Larissa.

I did not hold out any hope to M. de Montebello that Her Majesty's Government could assent to this proposal. It seemed to them that, considering that Greece had no Treaty right whatever, and had acquired no right by any successful war, the amount that would be yielded to her under the decisions of the Congress, strictly interpreted, would be a very handsome result of efforts which had not gone beyond diplomatic negotiations.

At the same time I begged M. de Montebello to point out to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs that the real difficulty which hampered our movements in this matter was the lively apprehension entertained by the Sultan of his own Mahommedan subjects. Drawing a lesson from past events, he attributed to them the power of endangering not only his Throne but his life, and the great obstacle in his mind to any considerable concession to Greek claims was the fear that they would be resented by the Mussulman population as an unnecessary prejudice to the Empire. When concessions were the result of a Treaty, or when they were enforced at the sword's point, the Mussulmans understood that the Sultan must yield, and they bore him no ill-will for doing so; but their feelings would be very different towards what they would regard as an act of weakness, required by no promise and exacted by no necessity, but simply yielded to diplomatic importunity. I thought that the French Government would be wise to take this obstacle very seriously into consideration before they

resolved to place the weight of their support on the side of the somewhat exaggerated demands of Greece.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 307.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 201.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 12, 1879.

I HAVE received your telegraphic despatch of the 10th instant, reporting the views of M. Depretis respecting the question of the mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia.

The language of M. Depretis, as contained in your Excellency's telegram, scarcely agrees with that of Count Tornielli, reported in your telegram No. 32 of the 5th instant, which was to the effect that Italy consented to the scheme of a mixed occupation on the condition that the Seven Powers agreed to co-operate.

Without having pronounced against the mixed occupation in principle, Her Majesty's Government have found so many practical difficulties, that in view of the shortness of time they have been trying to make arrangements to meet the immediate necessity, which do not depend on a mixed occupation but which do not exclude its adoption.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 308.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 198.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April* 12, 1879.

COUNT MÜNSTER informed me to-day that he had reported a week ago to Prince Bismarck his belief that the negotiations for the mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia would not succeed. The German Government had, he said, treated him as too pessimist in his views, but he had now received a communication from them to the effect that they believed him to be right. He had learnt, he said, through Vienna, that Turkey had relaxed her objections to the mixed occupation scheme; but as that relaxation was coincident with the appearance of difficulties on the part of other Powers, the attitude of Italy, and the resumption by Prince Gortchacow of his superior influence at the Court of St. Petersburgh, he looked upon the position now taken by Turkey as merely an Oriental stratagem for putting the Powers in the wrong. She had objected as long as the Powers were willing to assent, and had withdrawn the objection so soon as she was satisfied that there was no danger of the scheme being carried into effect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 309.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 234.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 12, 1879.

YOU state in your telegram of yesterday (No. 59) that Count Andrassy had learnt from Count Zichy that the Porte had accepted the scheme of the mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia, and from the Austrian Ambassador at Rome that Italy was prepared to take part in it.

This information is at variance with that which has been received by Her Majesty's Government. Your Excellency will have seen, from Sir A. Paget's telegram of the 5th instant (No. 32), that Mr. Macdonell had reported to him that he had been told by the Italian Secretary that the answer given by him to the Russian proposal was that Italy would consent to mixed occupation, provided that the Seven Great Powers agreed to co-operate. As France and Germany had refused their co-operation, this answer was

equivalent to a rejection of the plan. As regards Turkey, her opinion upon the proposal has varied more than once. I understand her latest view to be that neither Russia nor herself should take part in the occupation, which would then be confined to England and Austria. But she has had no opportunity of expressing a formal opinion upon the scheme; as Russia, so far as I know, has made no communication to her on the subject, and has not consented to the condition of her participation upon which Her Majesty's Government have insisted.

According, therefore, to the information in the possession of Her Majesty's Government, the doubtful attitude of Italy and the Porte, and the absolute refusal of France and Germany to join in the occupation, place the scheme in a position which does not leave much hope of its success.

In face of this reluctance on the part of other Powers, Her Majesty's Government are by no means anxious to press the plan, fearing that it might end in England being expected with her own troops alone to keep order in half of the province, in which the English would not be popular with that portion of the inhabitants who are hostile to the Turks.

In the telegram to which I have above referred your Excellency also stated that Count Andrassy would make no objection to the appointment of Aleko Pasha as Governor of Eastern Roumelia, if, as he had been informed would be the case, that appointment should be proposed by the Porte. You are aware that the Grand Vizier has proposed, through Mr. Malet, to Her Majesty's Government the nomination of Aleko Pasha; and that, as the Turkish Government answer for him, and Rustem Pasha appears to be alarmed as to the consequences if he were to undertake the Government of the province, the proposal has been accepted. Upon this point, therefore, Her Majesty's Government and that of Austria-Hungary are agreed.

Her Majesty's Government have also expressed their concurrence in the suggestion made by the Porte that the Eastern Roumelian Commission shall be prolonged for a year, during which term Turkish troops shall not be summoned into the interior of the province by the Governor without the consent of the majority of the Commission.

In your further telegram of yesterday (No. 60) you stated that Count Andrassy had intimated to the Porte, through Count Zichy, his opinion that its right to garrison the Balkans must not be abandoned, but had added that he would not recommend that garrisons should be sent at once. Her Majesty's Government entirely concur with his Excellency in this view. They object to any surrender by the Porte of its right to occupy the Balkans; but they agree with him in thinking that the exercise of the right might perhaps for a little time be prudently delayed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 310.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 237.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 12, 1879.

THE Austrian Ambassador informed me to-day that Count Andrassy still held to the scheme of the mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia, but observed that he himself considered that his Excellency's views on the subject were over-sanguine, the current of feeling in Europe being evidently adverse to the plan. He asked me what was the present opinion of Her Majesty's Government.

I said that the adhesion of Her Majesty's Government to a genuine scheme of mixed occupation had not been withdrawn, but that the general disinclination to take part in the operation was so great, and the conditions attached by some of the Powers were so impracticable, that it was obvious to us that the scheme had at present no vitality in it, and that the so-called mixed occupation, if it took place at all, would degenerate into the sole occupation by one or two Powers of special regions of Eastern Roumelia. This appeared to me to be a very different matter from the original project, and it implied a position on the part of the Powers so occupying which was not at all coveted by Her Majesty's Government. I said that I considered that the refusal of the German Government to take their natural part at the head of a mixed occupation had been one of the most serious impediments to its success.

The Ambassador then referred to the right, conferred upon the Porte by the Treaty of Berlin, of occupying points in the Balkans, and said that Count Andrassy was strongly

of opinion that it ought not to concede this right, though it might prudently defer the exercise of it for a short time.

I said that in that view Her Majesty's Government exactly coincided with the opinion of Count Andrassy.

I also dwelt upon the necessity of insisting that no failure in the negotiations for mixed occupation should have anything whatever to do with the necessity of the Russian evacuation being effected by the stipulated time, and I said that it was the intention of Her Majesty's Government to insist upon the performance of the Treaty in that respect under all circumstances.

In this view his Excellency entirely concurred.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 310[a].

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 65.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 12, 1879.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copy of a letter which has been received from the Anglo-Jewish Association, inclosing a paper on the insufficiency of the measures now being taken by the Roumanian Government and Legislature to remove the disabilities of the Jews in that Principality, and also forwarding an account of the attempts of a captain of militia to excite the population in the district of Roman against the Jewish community there.

I shall be glad to receive a Report from you on both these subjects.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 311.

Mr. St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Ragusa, April* 12, 1879.

TURKISH Delegates for delimitation of Montenegrin frontier have arrived at Ragusa from Constantinople.

No. 312.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 13.)

(No. 24.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, April* 13, 1879.

MAJOR COUNT VON WEDEL has been appointed for Bulgarian delimitation, and Captain Krahmer for Eastern Roumelia and Bulgarian frontier. Both these officials have already left for Constantinople.

No. 313.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 13.)

(No. 143. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 13, 1879.

ITALIAN Commissioner just called to tell me that French had received a telegram yesterday from Philippopolis saying that Aleko Pasha is there, and walking about streets of town. I have not yet heard from Lord Donoughmore, but telegraphed to you at once.

Italian Commissioner fears he may be also elected Prince of Bulgaria.

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[a] No. 131.

No. 314.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *April* 13, 1879.

CAPTAIN GUERET arrived on 11th, Captain Jones, Lieutenant Hare, and Dr. Exham on 12th. I understand that Captain Elles (*sic*) has been ordered to join me next week. My party will be then complete, but I can commence without waiting for him. French, Austrian, and Turkish Commissioners are here. Italian, and probably German, expected to-day. Russian is also expected to arrive before the 15th.

No. 315.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 14.)

(No. 78.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, April* 2, 1879.

I HAVE been informed by this Government that a telegram from Prince Labanoff has been received, stating that the Porte itself prefers the appointment of Aleko Pasha as Governor-General of Roumelia to that of Rustem.

If this information is incorrect it would be advisable that I should be put in a position to contradict it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 316.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 14.)

(No. 80. Confidential.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, April* 3, 1879.

I SAW Count Schouvaloff this afternoon, and touched upon the subject of your telegram of the 2nd instant, No. 8.

He seemed extremely surprised; told me that the Russian Government had heard nothing from Constantinople throwing any doubt upon the success of the project for a mixed occupation; that it was quite impossible his recent endeavours to bring about that arrangement could have been thwarted from hence; that in reply to an announcement that a mixed occupation had occasioned great dismay amongst the Bulgarians, the Emperor had that morning telegraphed that the proposal was his own, and that he wished General Stolipine to make it go down with the Roumeliote population; that the Council was at that moment elaborating the details of the proposed scheme with a view to its being communicated in a Circular to the Powers; and that he could not understand what had happened.

I subsequently had a conversation with General Chanzy. General Chanzy told me that he had received as yet no instructions of any sort from his Government beyond having been told when leaving Paris that he was to assume a moderating and friendly attitude towards all concerned.

The impression left upon General Chanzy's mind by his intercourse with the Emperor is that the latter is quite sincere in his desire to push the mixed occupation project, and most anxious for France to join.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 317.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 14.)

(No. 83.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, April* 4, 1879.

I TO-DAY submitted to Prince Gortchacow your Lordship's proposals, as instructed by your telegram No. 8 of the 2nd instant.

I have also discussed the subject with M. de Giers and Count Schouvaloff.

M. de Giers thought very favourably of these suggestions, but objected, as before, to the Turks being located at Ichtiman. He evidently prefers this new plan to the old one, and sincerely desires its success. He would tell me nothing respecting the wishes of the Russian Government to persevere in the mixed occupation scheme, even if France and Italy refused to participate.

Count Schouvaloff, on the other hand, told me that he thought nothing but force would maintain tranquillity in the province, and that the entry of the Turkish troops can only take place after the present excitement has subsided, and under the protection of a foreign occupying force. He also thought this protection necessary for the safe working of the Delimitation Commission. The population, the Count said, had got beyond the control of the Russian authorities, and he admitted that the Russian Government are now aware that they committed an error in not peremptorily putting an end to the intrigues of their Panslavist agents.

He still thinks, however, that notwithstanding the disadvantage at which Russia would be obviously placed by such an arrangement, a mixed occupation would be advisable even without the participation of Italy and France.

The Count added that a good deal would depend on the account of the condition of the province given by General Todleben, who would arrive to-night. He also informed me that the Emperor had deeply appreciated the friendly spirit your Lordship has shown, and that he desired to thank you for your assistance in endeavouring to further the success of the Russian proposals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 318.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 14.)

(No. 87.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, April* 7, 1879.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 16 of the 7th instant, reporting the expulsion from their homes of a number of Mahommedan families by their Christian fellow-countrymen in Roumelia, I have the honour to state that I took occasion in a conversation I had yesterday with M. de Giers to refer incidentally to the circumstance, and pointed out to him what a commentary incidents of this nature would furnish to Prince Gortchacow's suggestion that the Turkish Executive and the European Commission should deprive themselves of the right of calling in the assistance of a military force in support of order and justice in the province. Hitherto the Russian Government had been continually asking for guarantees in favour of the Christians against the excesses of the Turks; but if the Turkish Executive were to be shorn of the means of enforcing its legitimate behests in case of need, what guarantees would remain to the Mahommedan portion of the Roumelian people for fair treatment at the hands of armed Roumelian mobs.

M. de Giers replied that he believed as a fact the Christian and Mahommedan agricultural communities in East Roumelia lived upon very good terms with one another, but that the most stringent orders had been sent out to General Stolipine to prevent the occurrence of any outrages such as I had referred to.

I concluded by impressing upon M. de Giers—if the Russian Government desired the entry of the Turkish troops into Roumelia to be postponed—the advisability of rendering their intervention unnecessary by preventing the unjust treatment of the Mahommedan population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 319.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 14.)

(No. 89.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, April 7, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose extracts from the "Golos" and "Le Nouveau Monde."

I have marked a passage of the latter, intimating Prince Gortchacow's disapproval of the mixed occupation, and criticizing Count Schouvaloff for having proposed such a plan at the instigation of England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 319.

Extracts from the "Golos" and "Le Nouveau Monde."

L'Occupation Mixte.—On lit dans le "Golos":—

"La diplomatie Européenne s'habitue de plus en plus à la vie au jour le jour. Elle est satisfaite lorsqu'elle a trouvé l'expédient éphémère susceptible d'empêcher un conflit à courte échéance. Le souci des hommes d'Etat de l'Europe ne va pas au-delà. Quant à l'avenir, on n'y veut point songer. On semble avoir perdu l'énergie virile qui fait envisager en face les éventualités, si terribles qu'elles puissent apparaître. En ce moment, par exemple, l'Europe se rattache avec ferveur à l'idée de l'occupation mixte de la Roumélie Orientale. Le télégraphe n'est occupé qu'à la transmission des pourparlers les plus circonstanciés sur cette question. Il nous entretient des compétitions qui déjà surgissent ici et là. On dirait qu'il suffit qu'un corps d'occupation mixte, laborieusement composé, apparaisse dans les provinces que la Russie aura évacuées pour que l'ère de sécurité et de prospérité prêchée par le Traité de Berlin s'établisse définitivement en Roumélie. Cependant, en réalité, il n'en est pas ainsi. La substitution de sentinelles à d'autres sentinelles ne changera rien aux choses. Les Roumélliotes continueront à se considérer comme étant dans une situation transitoire et songeront, malgré tout, au sort qui leur sera réservé lorsque, tôt ou tard, ils retomberont sous l'autorité des Turcs. Les Roumélliotes n'abandonneront point leur vœu d'union avec la Bulgarie. Ils ne se guériront pas de l'horreur que leur cause la conduite des Turcs en Macédoine. La mise en vigueur du fameux Statut—si libéral qu'il puisse être—n'est pas susceptible de leur faire oublier leurs angoisses en face de l'avenir. Tout cela est perdu de vue par la diplomatie Européenne. Elle est complétement absorbée par l'attente au terme duquel doit cesser l'occupation Russe de la Roumélie, probablement parce qu'elle y soit la fin de l'influence que la Russie exerce en Orient de par le fait de ses immenses sacrifices. Néanmoins, les Russophobes font erreur. Ils ont pu entraver l'œuvre de San Stéfano, ils ne réussiront point à consoler les Chrétiens des Balkans de la perte des bienfaits que ce Traité leur réservait. Une Bulgarie unifiée, telle était la formule Russe. Tant que cette formule ne passera pas à l'état de fait accompli, la race Slave des Balkans entretiendra le souvenir de ceux qui, à la suite d'une campagne difficile, entreprise pour la cause de la civilisation en Orient, ont proclamé ce principe de vérité et de justice. Dans sa haine aveugle contre nous, l'Europe ne s'aperçoit pas que le Traité de Berlin, avec ses restrictions et ses amendements à celui de San Stéfano, place la Russie dans la situation du Piémont au lendemain de la bataille de Novare. Les sympathies de l'Italie pour le Piémont ne firent qu'augmenter après l'héroïque conduite de Charles-Albert. Les Machiavels de la diplomatie Occidentale feront bien de méditer cet enseignement à la veille d'installer en Roumélie une occupation mixte, à la faveur de laquelle plusieurs milliers d'Anglais et aussi de Turcs s'implanteront. Qu'ils réfléchissent au prix que peut leur coûter la satisfaction de voir déguerpir ces maudits Russes."

Le "Nouveau Temps" se prononce aussi sur la même question. Il commence par exprimer toutes les défiances que lui inspire ce projet d'occupation mixte, puis il dit :—

"On sait par expérience combien il faut se tenir en garde contre les projets de la diplomatie en général. Celle-ci lance souvent une proposition bien moins avec l'idée de la faire aboutir que de se ménager une transition afin de passer à un autre ordre d'idées. Il n'y aurait rien d'improbable à ce que la proposition de l'occupation mixte de la Roumélie ne recélât une arrière-pensée de ce genre. C'est pourquoi nous pensons que l'idée, qui en émane directement de la Russie et indirectement de l'Angleterre, est aussi inopportune que possible. S'il est vrai, comme l'assurent les feuilles étrangères, que le Prince Gortchacow y ait montré de la répugnance, on ne saurait assez le féliciter de sa prévoyance politique. Cette fois, notre diplomatie a positivement fait un faux pas, et cela prouve que n'est pas diplomate qui veut, et que la science politique consiste surtout à savoir éviter les embuches. L'Angleterre et l'Autriche se sont engouées de notre proposition par la raison qu'elles la désiraient et y entrevoyaient le moyen facile de partager les dépouilles de la Turquie. Aussi l'Angleterre prend-elle la chose avec ferveur et s'apprête-t-elle déjà à envoyer un corps de 5,000 hommes en Roumélie. On a soulevé là, selon nous, une question bien intempestive."

No. 320.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 14.)

(No. 99.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, April 9, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith an abstract from some of the Slavophile organs, showing the dissatisfaction felt by that party with the Bulgarians for the want of gratitude shown to their Russian deliverers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 321.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 14.)

(No. 198. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, April 6, 1879.*

I HEAR on good authority that Count Andrassy has made one more attempt to persuade the German Government to take part in the proposed mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia. His efforts have ended in failure, for Prince Bismarck has declared that the Emperor was personally so unwilling to send any German soldiers so far from home, that it would lead to no practical result to ask His Majesty to reconsider the proposal. Besides which, Prince Bismarck was of opinion that the German Parliament would not sanction such a measure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 322.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 14.)

(No. 199. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, April 8, 1879.*

MY French colleague, M. de St. Vallier, tells me that, having lately had occasion to speak to Prince Bismarck on the subject of the recognition of Roumania, he had been struck (as your Lordship may recollect that I was also) at the great antipathy the German Chancellor appears to entertain towards the Roumanians.

Prince Bismarck is equally displeased with Prince Charles for disregarding his advice, and forgetting, as the Chancellor says, that he is a "German Prince." The fact is, that Prince Charles has given Prince Bismarck great offence by preferring the advice of his father, the Prince of Hohenzollern, and of his friend, Baron von Roggenbach, whom Prince Bismarck looks upon as a personal enemy.

Persons who know Prince Bismarck intimately are of opinion that he would gladly withdraw Prince Charles from Roumania, and leave the country to itself and its neighbours, provided he could bring about such a contingency without incurring

the displeasure of the German Emperor and of the Crown Prince, who take a great personal interest in the success of their relative, Prince Charles.

Prince Bismarck would like Germany to be absolutely without a tie or interest in the east of Europe which could ever clash with those of Austria or Russia, who would never venture to treat a Prince of Hohenzollern as they might a native Hospodar.

M. de St. Vallier tells me that the Italian Ambassador was also instructed a few days since by his Government to read to, and leave copy of a note with, the German Minister for Foreign Affairs, urging the recognition of Roumania, and arguing that Germany "scarcely did justice" to the Roumanian Government in refusing to admit the internal difficulties they had to overcome in settling the question of the emancipation of the Jews, native or foreign. Herr von Bülow, on hearing that the Italian Government called the sense of justice of the German Government in question, interrupted the Ambassador, declined to listen to such inadmissible insinuations, and refused to accept the proffered copy of the Italian note.

Prince Bismarck will certainly seek an early opportunity to make the Italian Government repent the freedom of their official expressions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 323.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 14.)

(No. 201. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, April 8, 1879.*

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs lately asked me, as on previous occasions, in the name of the German Chancellor, to express to your Lordship his Highness' hope that Her Majesty's Government would support M. Waddington's endeavours in regard to the rectification of the Turco-Greek frontier in accordance with the XXIVth Article of the Berlin Treaty.

His Excellency has since received from Count Münster copy of your Lordship's despatch on the subject to Lord Lyons No. 275 of the 5th ultimo.

My Austrian colleague tells me in confidence that he has been surprised to perceive how earnestly Prince Bismarck presses the Greek Frontier question on Count Andrassy, and how much he insists on the necessity of co-operating with France.

I now learn that my French colleague, in talking the question over with the Turkish Ambassador, Sadullah Bey, warned him that the Porte would create an Albanian question if they persisted in withholding Janina from Greece, because the people of Janina, rather than continue under Turkish rule, would join the agitation in favour of an independent Albania, which would, in the end, deprive Turkey of the whole province.

There can be no doubt that the Greek question is as popular in Germany as it is in France.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 324.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 14.)

(No. 7. Political.)
My Lord, *Corfu, April 8, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, the accompanying extract from a "Confidential" and hurriedly-written Report received from the Vice-Consul at Santa Maura by yesterday's mail.

2. As far back as December, 1877, I judged it my duty to call the attention of Her Majesty's Government to the persistent aims of the Italians towards obtaining a footing on the Eastern shores of the Adriatic.

3. Some months ago there were great changes made in the personnel of the Italian Consulates in Upper and Lower Epirus. The principal officers had shown more zeal than discretion in carrying out what is really the traditional policy of their Government, and it

was deemed expedient to adopt less ostentatious modes of action, but the move has deceived no one here, and I conscientiously believe that Mr. Onofrio's views in the matter are perfectly correct. As to how far the facts referred to may be intrinsically important, I leave it absolutely to your Lordship's superior judgment to determine.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 324.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

(Confidential.)
Dear Sir, *Santa Maura, April 6, 1879.*

I HASTEN to communicate to you that M. Coumounduros telegraphed on Thursday morning to Mr. Aristotle Valaority, requesting him to hold himself in readiness to start on a political mission to Rome. The telegram was of course a cypher one and a long one too. The greatest secrecy is observed as to the object of the mission, but from what I have learned from a trustworthy source it would appear that Mr. Valaority is to move the Roman Cabinet to support Greece in claiming the execution of that part of the Treaty of Berlin which concerned her, and at the same time to induce her to desist from stirring up the Albanians against Greece. In the absence of further authentic information on the subject, I must refrain from adding anything else till next mail, when I shall be able to get at the bottom of the whole affair. At the present moment it is not known whether Valaority has accepted or not.

While Greece is about to solicit the support of Italy as regards Epirus, the agents of the latter are reported to be still agitating and stirring up the Albanians against Greece. I stated in a preceding letter (3rd March) that Signor de Gubernatis* had returned to Epirus, and that, although my Italian colleague here had informed me that the object of the visit of Signor Gubernatis was to give the last touch to his chart of Epirus, I was disposed to think that the reappearance of that gentleman on the scene of his former exploits could only be connected with the political agitation in the interest of the Italo-Albanian scheme. I was right in my conjecture. The whole affair is now disclosed by the "Messager de Rome"—an organ obviously inspired by the Cairoli party—in an able article, which has been translated and published by the "Hora" of Athens, No. 235 of the 21st March, 1879 (o.s.), which I venture to recommend to your perusal, and which I am sure you will find interesting. The article in question not only unmasks the intrigues of M. de Gubernatis, but also those of Signor Corte,† whose zeal and activity in the interest of the Albanian cause is severely criticized. The said article also confirms all I wrote to you both "Officially" and "Confidentially" on Albanian affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

No. 325.

M. Bartholomei to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 14.)

M. le Marquis, *Chesham House, le 7/19 Avril, 1879.*

CONFORMÉMENT à ce que nous étions convenus, dans le dernier entretien que j'ai eu l'honneur d'avoir avec votre Excellence, je m'empresse de vous transmettre ci-près un *pro-memoria* contenant la reproduction des considérations développées dans la dépêche du Ministère Impérial sur les travaux futurs des Commissions de Délimitation dans la péninsule des Balkans, et dont je vous avais donné lecture Samedi.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) H. BARTHOLOMEI.

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* Late Italian Consul at Janina, but latterly transferred to another post.
† Italian Vice-Consul at Prevera.

Inclosure in No. 325.

Pro-Memoriâ.

LES Commissions de Délimitation instituées en vertu du Traité de Berlin, qui avaient suspendu leurs travaux à cause de la mauvaise saison, vont se réunir prochainement, et les Cabinets seront appelés à donner de nouvelles instructions à leurs Délégués.

Le Gouvernement Impérial espère que ces instructions seront conçues dans un esprit de conciliation propre à faciliter le travail des Commissaires, et il ne manquera pas de son côté de munir ses Représentants de directions dans ce but.

Les questions pendantes dont les Commissions de Délimitation auront à s'occuper ont été déjà signalées par le Cabinet Impérial, et elles ont provoqué un échange d'idées entre les Puissances.

Le Traité de Berlin et les Protocoles du Congrès formeront la base naturelle des instructions des Délégués Russes. Le Cabinet Impérial se place avec plaisir sur ce terrain d'une entente commune de l'Europe. Mais ni le Traité susmentionné, ni les Protocoles qui l'accompagnent, ne suffisent dans certains cas pour élucider entièrement la tâche dévolue aux Commissaires Européens.

Certaines difficultés qui se sont élevées à ce sujet dans les Commissions de Délimitation l'ont prouvé suffisamment.

En présence de ces incertitudes et des divergences d'opinions qu'elles font naître, le Gouvernement Russe a été amené à prescrire à ses Délégués de distinguer soigneusement entre les questions de principe et celles de détails, c'est-à-dire, d'un intérêt secondaire et technique. On n'insistera sur une solution par voie d'unanimité que relativement aux premières, et on abandonnera les secondes à la décision de la majorité des votes, afin d'en activer la conclusion.

Les Commissaires Russes recevront à cet égard les pouvoirs les plus étendus.

Il a paru, d'autre part, que dans les questions de principe les Cabinets devaient se réserver, à défaut d'unanimité entre leurs Représentants, le droit d'interpréter, comme ils l'entendent en dernière analyse, l'accord qui s'est établi entre eux au Congrès.

Il serait à désirer que dès à présent l'attention des Cabinets se porte sur les deux questions les plus importantes de cette catégorie—celle de la nouvelle délimitation de la Bulgarie du côté de la Roumélie Orientale et celle de Silistrie. La première présente de l'importance à cause des garnisons, que les Turcs auront le droit d'introduire dans les Balkans.

Le Traité de Berlin porte, entr'autres, que le tracé de la frontière en question à partir de Démir-Capou suivra à l'ouest "la chaîne principale" de ces montagnes. Conformément aux principes généraux des droits des gens, l'expression de "chaîne principale" ne saurait signifier que la séparation des cours d'eau qui suivent les deux versants, de même que le thalweg forme la ligne de démarcation d'une rivière. C'est dans ce sens équitable que les Délégués Russes se prononceront constamment.

Les nécessités d'une défense des Balkans, par les Turcs, ayant été reconnues par le Congrès de Berlin, seront certainement prises en considération par ces Délégués au tracé de la ligne dont il s'agit.

Pour ce qui est de la question de Silistrie, le Gouvernement Impérial ne croit pas devoir admettre la séparation de cette ville de sa banlieue, qui en forme une partie intégrante au point de vue économique, et à celui de la population locale. Il devra, par conséquent, insister, conformément à l'esprit et à la lettre du Traité de Berlin, pour que la Commission de Délimitation de la Dobroudja, ou la Sous-Commission qui la remplacera, examine de nouveau la question de savoir dans quelle localité à l'est de Silistrie un pont, réunissant les deux rives du Danube, pourrait être rétabli, et trace la nouvelle frontière "en dehors de la banlieue de cette ville."

Le Gouvernement Britannique reconnaîtra sans doute le caractère de franchise complète des objections qui précèdent, et le désir d'arriver à une entente mutuelle qui les inspire.

En effet, le Cabinet Impérial est animé du désir sincère de terminer le plus promptement possible les travaux de délimitation, et de consolider ainsi l'ordre de choses que le Congrès de Berlin a voulu établir.

No. 326.

Count Karolyi to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 14.)

(Private and Confidential.)

Belgrave Square, April 14, 1879.

Dear Lord Salisbury,

I HAVE just been informed that M. de Novikoff has made a communication to Count Andrassy to the effect that the Russian Government attach the very highest importance to having the work of the Bulgarian Delimitation Commission concluded before the evacuation of the Principality of Bulgaria by the Russians takes place.

Now, my Government does not object, in consequence of this *démarche*, to urge upon our Delegate to expedite, as far as in him lays, the work of delimitation; but they cannot allow that the term of evacuation depends in any way on the work of the Delimitation Commission, because my Government look upon any postponement of the evacuation as a far greater evil than there can be in any possible consequences that might follow from the delimitation being carried through somewhat later.

It is Count Andrassy's intention to answer in the above sense to M. de Novikoff, and it would afford him great satisfaction to find himself in unison with the Cabinet of St. James' also on this point.

As he wishes for an answer, I hope you will be so kind as to send me one in writing, in case you should not come back to town to-morrow or the day after, and I would not have the pleasure of seeing you soon.

Believe me, &c.

(Signed) LOUIS KÁROLYI.

No. 327.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 14.)

(No. 27.)

(Telegraphic.)

Bucharest, April 14, 1879.

ROUMANIAN Government extremely anxious that new frontier about Silistria should be at last settled in their favour, according to previous decision of six of the Commissioners.

No. 328.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 18.)

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, April 14, 1879.

CONSEQUENT on extreme terror of Rustem Pasha, Porte has recommended Aleko as Governor in Eastern Roumelia. Accepted by Russia, Austria, and England. Recommend him to M. Waddington's acceptance.

No. 329.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Clarke.

(No. 21. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, April 14, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 18 of the 8th instant, in which you request instructions on certain points connected with the settlement of the frontier to be assigned to the district of Khotour, ceded to Persia by Article LX of the Treaty of Berlin.

In regard to the first of these points, I am of opinion that the Commission should take as a basis for the demarcation the line agreed upon by Sir Arnold Kemball and the Russian Delegate on the Turco-Persian Boundary Commission. The Plenipotentiaries at Berlin had clearly in their mind a decision or recommendation made, or to be made, by that Commission, and in the absence of a formal award strictly corresponding to the words employed in the Treaty, it is reasonable to take the expression

of opinion which most nearly fulfils the conditions, rather than to reopen the consideration of the whole question from a date much anterior.

In regard to the second point, Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the right of the Persian Government to be represented in the Commission for the Demarcation of the Khotour Boundary should be admitted.

The International Commission for the demarcation of the Frontiers of Bulgaria was constituted under an express provision contained in Article II of the Treaty of Berlin. The fact that Roumania was interested in a portion of the frontier did not warrant a different constitution of the Commission for that portion of its work. But, in the case of the Servian frontier, as to which no such express provision was made in the Treaty, the Servian Commissioner sat and voted with the Delegates of the Signatory Powers, and it may be presumed that the same course will be followed in the Commission about to meet to determine the new frontier of Montenegro.

The same rule seems applicable to the Commission for the Boundary of Khotour, as to the constitution of which the Treaty is silent.

As regards the principle by which you should be guided in the settlement of disputed points, I think it would be desirable that, without showing any disposition to reduce unfairly the amount of territory ceded to Persia, you should bear in mind the expediency of assigning to the Turkish dominions in Asia generally as good a strategic frontier as possible.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 330.

The Marquis of Salisbury to M. Catalani.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Foreign Office, April* 14, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of his Excellency Count Menabrea's note of the 28th ultimo, inquiring the views of Her Majesty's Government on the question of the isolation, on sanitary grounds, of Sulina from the passage of the Russian troops.

In reply, I have the honour to inform you that Her Majesty's Government are not at present in possession of any information which would enable them to express an opinion on this matter; but that Her Majesty's Representative on the Danube Commission and Her Majesty's Minister at Bucharest will be instructed to report upon the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 331.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 496.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April* 14, 1879.

FROM the latest information received by Her Majesty's Government it would seem that in consequence of the extreme terror with which, as it appears, Rustem Pasha looked upon the question of his appointment as Governor of Eastern Roumelia, the Porte has recommended Aleko Pasha as Governor of that province, and this arrangement has received the sanction of Russia and Austria, as well as of this country.

I have, in consequence, to request your Excellency to recommend Aleko Pasha to M. Waddington, for the acceptance of the French Government, for the post in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 332.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Count Karolyi.

(Private and Confidential.)
My dear Count Karolyi, *Hatfield, April* 14, 1879.

I AM much obliged to you for your letter of this day's date, which I have just received.

A communication was made to me a few days ago by M. Bartholomei, apparently similar to that which Count Andrassy has received. I answered simply that I would instruct General Hamley to do all in his power to hasten the operations of the Commission of Delimitation; and this I have since done by telegraph.

In communicating the matter to Lord Dufferin, I will, in accordance with your suggestion, call his attention to the possibility of an intention on the part of the Russian Government of implying by this communication that their evacuation ought to be delayed until the delimitation is complete; and I will desire him to take any suitable opportunity of repudiating such a doctrine, which appears to me wholly untenable.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 333.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 16.)

(No. 4.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 4, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I arrived here, with Major Ardagh, this morning.

I called on Commandant Lemoyne, Secretary of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission, to inquire about the arrival of the different members of it; but he is absent for the day, and I am as yet without information on that point.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 334.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 15.)

(No. 5.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 6, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I learned to-day, from Commandant Lemoyne, the following circumstances respecting the reassembly of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission, in addition to what I have already telegraphed under this date, namely, that he believes no Commissioner has yet been appointed by the German Government to replace Colonel Scherff.

Commandant Lemoyne and myself are as yet the only members of the Commission present in Constantinople.

He thinks there is no question but that Tahir Pasha, now in this neighbourhood, will continue to represent Turkey.

The Italian and Russian Commissioners may be expected from day to day.

The Austrian Commissioner is expected to arrive here next Friday, the 11th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 335.

Captain Swaine to the Earl of Dufferin.—(Received at the Foreign Office, April 15.)

(No. 18.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, April 9, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour herewith to inclose an account of the military organization of the Bulgarian army. The paper speaks for itself, and requires no comment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LEOPOLD V. SWAINE, *Military Attaché.*

Inclosure in No. 335.

Abstract from the Russian Press.

PROFESSOR DRINOFF, the Bulgarian Minister, has presented a Report, reproduced *in extenso* by the "Novoe Vremya" of the $\frac{26\text{th March}}{7\text{th April}}$, 1879, on the results of the Russian administration in Bulgaria; the following are the passages in it that relate to the organization of the Bulgarian army:—

"On the opening day of the first National Assembly the position of the future Bulgarian Principality in regard to its military administration may be shortly described as follows:

"For the maintenance of the internal and external safety of the Principality it possesses territorial troops, which consist of 21 infantry drujinas (regiments), 8 batteries of artillery, 4 cavalry sotnias, 1 regiment of sappers, 1 sapper company of instruction, and siege artillery. The numerical strength of these troops amounts to 21,000 men, exclusive of the Russian cadres. These latter, for the whole Bulgarian military force, consist of 394 officers (including 1 staff and 35 superior officers of Bulgarian origin) and 2,694 rank and file. The Bulgarian territorial army, thanks to the unceasing co-operation of the field administration of the active army, and to the untiring and active care of the Commander-in-chief, is being placed on as satisfactory a footing as possible in material respects, and they are also being provided with stores, clothing, arms, and military material. This latter will be collected in several permanent depôts, and is of such quantity as to satisfy the requirements of the Bulgarian troops for a considerable time. The military training of the troops is making remarkable progress, and it may be expected that the Bulgarians, with their natural aptitude for all manner of labour and occupation, will, in a short time, constitute an excellent military force. But in order to communicate a feeling of complete independence and a purely national spirit to the troops, it is necessary to keep in view the appointment, as soon as possible, of natives to the post of officers. The necessary measures have already been adopted towards the attainment of this object. Military schools have been opened at Sofia, and it must be presumed that these establishments will succeed in the course of several years in preparing reliable and competent officers for the permanent army of the Principality. In the Sofia military school are being educated 250 young Bulgars, who are divided into two classes. There are 100 pupils in the senior class, and the greater part of these will, in May month, pass their examination for the rank of officer. Moreover, in consequence of the representation of the Imperial Commissioner, the Emperor has sanctioned the education at the expense of the Russian Government of 90 young Bulgarians in the Elizavetgrad School of Cadets, and they have already been dispatched to Elizavetgrad. In order to prepare the Bulgarians for filling posts in the technical branch of the Bulgarian Military Administration, it is contemplated to send to Russia 42 young men, who will be instructed in the Technological and Pyrotechnical Schools, and in the small arms factory at Tula. Military service in the Principality is compulsory for the whole population from the ages of 20 to 30, irrespective of religion or nationality. The term of actual service is fixed at two years. The military service is based on the principle of territorial troops or a militia; each district, in the majority of cases, had to furnish men only for the drujina of that district, while men from whole provinces were supplied for the formation of cavalry sotnias and batteries for that province. The drujinas are stationed at central points in their respective districts, and the sotnias and batteries in the provinces, the troops consisting of a drujina numbering 1,000 men, a sotnia 150 men, and a battery 250 men. The Russian complement of officers and privates is distributed as follows: to each drujina 1 commander, 4 captains of companies, 4 subaltern officers, 1 adjutant, and 70 privates; to each sotnia 1 commander, 1 subaltern officer, and 10 officers; and to each battery 1 commander, 1 subaltern, and 43 privates.

". . . . On the evacuation of the Principality by the Russian army it is contemplated to give over to the Bulgarian population all the cavalry, artillery, and transport stores, as also the spare horses of the transport service. By this new act of grace of His Majesty the Emperor, Bulgaria will receive about 20,000 horses of Russian breed, which are to be distributed equally among all the districts, where they will be of great assistance in the agricultural work of the population, who are in great need of draught cattle."

No 336.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 15.)

(No. 152. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Buenos, April 12, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of the decypher of the telegram which I received from M. Depretis in the evening of the 9th instant, the substance of which I had the honour to telegraph to your Lordship, as recorded in my despatch No. 151 of the same date.

The following day I replied to M. Depretis by a cyphered telegram in the following words:—

"J'ai télégraphié à Londres la dépêche de votre Excellence d'hier."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 336.

M. Depretis to Sir A. Paget.

(Télégraphique.) *Le 9 Avril, 1879.*

LES informations que je reçois portent que le projet d'occupation mixte serait abandonné par votre Gouvernement. Votre Excellence sait que nous avons déclaré à la Russie que l'Italie n'est pas favorable à la politique d'intervention, et que toutes nos préférences sont pour l'application littérale des clauses du Traité de Berlin. Nous avons donné notre adhésion à l'occupation mixte de la Roumélie par les Sept Puissances, vu les circonstances spéciales de ce pays, et sous la réserve expresse que cette occupation ne créerait pas un précédent pour d'autres pays où l'ordre intérieur pourrait être troublé. Enfin, nous nous étions réservé l'examen des voies et moyens et des conditions des arrangements à prendre: tout ceci en conformité aux idées que j'avais échangées avec votre Excellence.

La condition du concours de la Turquie était inclus dans notre réponse à la Russie, et nous ne nous engagions pas pour le cas où l'occupation mixte se réduirait à un tête-à-tête de l'Italie avec autre Puissance. Nous étions prêts à nous entendre avec la Grande Bretagne sur la marche à suivre et sur les moyens à employer, mais nous voulions surtout, et avant tout, nous expliquer clairement avec votre Gouvernement sur les dangers éventuels contre lesquels nous sommes tenus de nous préserver.

Je n'ai depuis rien reçu de votre Excellence, et j'apprends par le Secrétaire de Légation, resté à Londres pendant l'absence du Général Menabrea, qui est souffrant, qu'entre autres programmes dont on parle, il y a (1) l'occupation de l'Autriche et Italie seuls; (2) l'occupation de l'Autriche par mandat Européen.

Vous connaissez assez notre pensée intime pour savoir que ni l'un ni l'autre de ces combinaisons pourrait nous convenir. Je tiendrais beaucoup à ce que votre Gouvernement en soit informé confidentiellement.

Vous pouvez lui dire que nous persistons dans l'idée que les intérêts de l'Italie et de l'Angleterre dans les questions de la Péninsule des Balkans n'ont rien de divergent, et que conséquemment entente explicite et cordiale est désirable également pour les deux pays.

No. 337.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 15.)

(No. 155.)

My Lord, *Baveno, April* 13, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 7, dated 4·45 P.M. yesterday, and to inclose herewith a copy of a telegram which I have in consequence addressed to Mr. Macdonell.

I have not inserted the first paragraph of your Lordship's telegram, not thinking that it was intended for communication to the Italian Government.

As M. Depretis may possibly expect something in writing in reply to his telegram to me, I have thought your Lordship would not object to my authorizing Mr. Macdonell to give to Count Tornielli, for M. Depretis, a Memorandum to the effect of my telegram.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 337.

Sir A. Paget to Mr. Macdonell.

(Telegraphic.) *Baveno, April* 13, 1870, 9·45 A.M.

INFORM Count Tornielli that, with reference to M. Depretis' telegram of the 9th instant, I have received the following from Lord Salisbury:—

"Without having pronounced against the mixed occupation in principle, we have found so many practical difficulties in view of shortness of the time, we have been trying to make arrangements for the immediate moment which do not depend on mixed occupation, but which do not exclude it."

You may give Tornielli a Memorandum to this effect for M. Depretis.

No. 338.

M. Gennadius to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 15.)

My Lord, *April* 12, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith copies of the Protocols drawn up and signed after each of the five sittings of the Greek and Turkish Commissioners lately held at Prevesa.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. GENNADIUS.

Inclosure in No. 338.

Protocole No. 1.—*Séance du* $\frac{27 \text{ Janvier}}{8 \text{ Février}}$, 1879.

SA. Majesté le Roi des Hellènes et Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Ottomans, animés du désir de s'entendre sur la rectification des frontières entre la Grèce et la Turquie, conformément aux résolutions du Protocole No. 13 du Congrès de Berlin, ont décidé de nommer à cet effet Commissaires:—

Sa Majesté le Roi des Hellènes:—MM. Scarlato Soutzo, Général de Brigade, Commandant-en-chef de l'Armée de la Grèce Orientale; Georges Zinopulo, Secrétaire-Général du Ministère de l'Intérieur; et Panos Colocotroni, Major d'Artillerie, Aide-de-camp de Sa Majesté.

Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Ottomans:—Son Excellence Ghazi Moukhtar Pacha, Maréchal de l'Empire, Chef de l'Etat-Major, Major-Général, et Commandant Militaire de Janina; et son Excellence Constant Pacha.

Lesquels, suivant l'indication de son Excellence Ghazi Moukhtar Pacha, s'étant réunis à Preveza, rentrent en séance aujourd'hui Samedi, à 1 heure P.M.

Au début de la séance, MM. les Commissaires de Sa Majesté le Roi donnent lecture de la situation suivante:—

"Le Congrès de Berlin, dans sa treizième séance, a décidé que la Sublime Porte serait invitée à s'entendre avec la Grèce pour une rectification des frontières en

Thessalie et en Epire. Cette décision du Congrès, insérée dans le Protocole No. 13, et sanctionnée par l'Article XXIV du Traité de Berlin, et formulée dans les termes suivants:—

"'Le Congrès invite la Sublime Porte à s'entendre avec la Grèce pour une rectification des frontières en Thessalie et en Epire, et est d'avis que cette rectification pourrait suivre la Vallée de Salamyrias (ancien Pénéas), sur le versant de la Mer Egée, et celle de Kalama, du côté de la Mer Ionienne.'

"En exécution des susdites résolutions du Congrès de Berlin, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Hellénique s'adressa, dès le $\frac{5}{17}$ Juillet, 1878, à M. le Ministre de Turquie à Athènes pour provoquer de la part de la Sublime Porte, la nomination de Commissaires Ottomans; afin que, de concert avec ceux qui seraient désignés par le Gouvernement Royal, il fut procédé aux travaux de démarcation. En réponse à cette communication Melik Effendi, Chargé d'Affaires de Turquie à Athènes a, par sa lettre du $\frac{13}{25}$ Décembre dernier, notifié à son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Grèce, par ordre du Gouvernement Ottoman, que la Sublime Porte a désigné les Commissaires chargés de procéder, de concert avec les Délégués qui seront désignés par le Gouvernement Hellénique, aux travaux de rectification des frontières entre les deux Etats.

"En conséquence de cet accord des deux Gouvernements sur le principe de la rectification des frontières entre les deux pays, conformément aux résolutions du Congrès de Berlin, les Commaissaires Grecs se croient autorisés à prier son Excellence Ghazi Moukhtar Pacha et son Excellence Constant Pacha, Commissaires du Gouvernement Ottoman, de vouloir bien s'expliquer sur les points de démarcation qui, selon l'opinion de la Sublime Porte, répondraient aux indications du dit treizième Protocole du Congrès de Berlin."

Leurs Excellences les Commissaires Ottomans, en réponse à cette déclaration, croient devoir faire observer à MM. les Commissaires Helléniques, que la décision du Congrès, à laquelle il est fait allusion, loin d'être irrévocable, est, en termes généraux, l'expression d'un vœu, dont la réalisation est subordonnée à l'entente des deux parties. Pour s'en convaincre, il suffirait de recourir au Protocole No. 13 du Congrès, et surtout de se bien pénétrer de l'esprit du paragraphe suivant, sur lequel ils ont l'honneur d'attirer d'une façon toute particulière l'attention de MM. les Commissaires de Sa Majesté le Roi:—

"Le Premier Plénipotentiaire de France croit servir également les intérêts des deux pays en proposant au Congrès d'indiquer d'une manière générale et sans porter atteinte à la souveraineté de la Porte, les limites qu'il voudrait voir assignées à la Grèce. L'autorité de la Haute Assemblée Européenne donnerait aux deux Gouvernements, Ottoman et Grec, la force morale nécessaire, au premier pour consentir à des concessions opportunes, au second pour résister à des revendications exagérées. Mais, pour atteindre ce but, son Excellence pense qu'il faut, d'une part ne point solliciter de la Porte des sacrifices impossibles, de l'autre, faire appel à la modération de la Grèce."

Son Excellence M. Waddington n'a eu en vue, en faisant cette proposition, que d'indiquer un moyen pour arriver à établir entre la Turquie et la Grèce une entente sincère, et à faire disparaître la méfiance qui caractérise les relations existant entre les deux Etats. Aussi, M. le Premier Plénipotentaire de France, en faisant preuve d'une hauteur de vues auxquelles les Commissaires Ottomans rendent toute justice, mais, en faisant aussi abstraction des difficultés que l'on devait inévitablement rencontrer dans la pratique, s'est-il borné à tracer une ligne, qui ne constitue ni une obligation pour la Turquie, ni un engagement envers la Grèce. Une fois ce principe établi, ils ne peuvent s'empêcher de considérer les limites indiquées dans le Protocole plus haut cité comme inadmissibles, même au point de vue des intentions du Congrès. Les sentiments qui animent la population du pays, sentiments dont ils se sont rendus compte dès leur arrivée à Preveza, leur permettent d'affirmer qu'une rectification de frontières, faite dans les conditions indiquées par M. le Premier Plénipotentiaire de France à Berlin, ouvrirait une ère de luttes implacables dans les provinces que la Grèce revendique.

En dehors même de cette éventualité redoutable, il se produirait encore des inconvénients trop graves pour que l'on puisse à cet égard prendre aucune décision à la légère; ainsi, l'Albanie, dont la population est composée d'éléments homogènes, se trouverait morcelée, et il est à prévoir que les Albanais, justement alarmés en voyant

leur homogénéité ainsi entamée, considéreront leur nationalité menacée de disparaître, et feront indubitablement des efforts énergiques pour la conserver intacte; partant, des litiges continuels surgiront, par suite de cette nouvelle division politique, litiges qui donneront continuellement naissance à des complications et à des conflits entre la Turquie et la Grèce; en un mot, les bonnes relations que M. le Premier Plénipotentiaire de France a eu en vue d'assurer, en faisant au Congrès la proposition de rectification, deviendraient impossibles.

Ne serait-ce donc pas aller à l'encontre des désirs de l'Europe que de faire passer sous la domination de la Grèce des populations qui renferment des éléments sur les sentiments desquels il n'y a plus à se faire illusion? Ce n'est donc qu'en ménageant le sentiment national des Albanais et, en évitant tout morcellement de leur territoire, qu'il serait possible d'arriver à une solution de nature à satisfaire les intérêts des deux Etats, et il serait de toute nécessité, pour le Gouvernement Hellénique, de ne pas insister pour l'adoption sur la ligne de démarcation, indiquée par MM. les Plenipotentiaires de France au Congrès de Berlin, et d'en proposer une nouvelle, plus propre à servir de base à une entente entre la Sublime Porte et la Grèce.

Leurs Excellences les Commissaires Ottomans s'en rapportent à cet égard à l'esprit de modération et de conciliation de MM. les Commissaires de Sa Majesté le Roi; il s'en rapportent surtout à la connaissance que possèdent ces derniers des circonstances locales, que ne pouvait prendre en considération M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de France.

Du reste son Excellence M. Waddington, en proposant les limites que MM. les Commissaires Hellènes semblent vouloir prendre comme base pour les négociations présentes, n'avait d'autre intention que la Grèce pourrait élever, et non d'imposer à la Sublime Porte une obligation dans le sens strict du mot; donc, MM. les Commissaires de Sa Majesté le Sultan, se basant sur les considérations plus haut développées, prient messieurs leurs collègues Hellènes de modifier leur première manière de voir, pour formuler des prétentions plus en harmonie avec les exigeances de la situation, et aussi plus conformes au sens et à la portée des arguments émis par M. le Premier Plenipotentiaire de France au Congrès pour appuyer sa proposition de rectifier les frontières Turco-Grecques.

MM. les Commissaires Hellènes déclarent s'en tenir aux limites fixées par le Protocole No. 13 du Congrès de Berlin, et se trouver dans l'impossibilité de s'en départir; ils pensent que ce serait à leurs collègues Ottomans d'indiquer une ligne de démarcation plus conformes à leurs idées.

Leurs Excellences Ghazi Moukhtar Pacha et Constant Pacha pensent que, dans l'état actuel, la question de la ligne de démarcation devait être pour le moment subordonnée à la solution d'une autre question qui, en raison de son importance, demandait à être immédiatement élucidée à faire l'objet d'un accord préalable; de la solution de cette question pourra dépendre la mesure des concessions territoriales que la Turquie pourrait faire.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Sultan est justement préoccupé du sort qui sera fait aux propriétaires des territoires annexés qui voudraient s'expatrier, et MM. les Commissaires Ottomans croient devoir, au nom de leur Gouvernement, demander, dès aujourd'hui, de quelles garanties le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Roi voudra entourer le réglement de cette question des propriétés. Quel que soit le résultat des négociations, il n'y a pas de doute que les Commissaires Ottomans désirant arriver à une entente, et qu'à la suite de cette entente, la rectification de frontières qui sera faite, sera tout à l'avantage de la Grèce; mais il restera au dedans de la ligne de démarcation des propriétés appartenant à des personnes désireuses de s'expatrier. Ne serait-il donc pas convenable de s'entendre, dès maintenant, au sujet du mode de réglement à adopter à leur égard.

MM. les Commissaires Hellènes répondent qu'en Grèce les lois accordent la même protection à tous les citoyens du Royaume, et que, selon la législation Grecque, la propriété est sacrée et inviolable: que, toutefois, cette question ne rentre pas dans leur compétence.

MM. les Commissaires Ottomans sont convaincus qu'un Etat constitutionnel comme la Grèce s'empressera de sauvegarder les droits des habitants des parties des territoires à annexer, qui voudraient s'expatrier, et de régler la question de leurs propriétés, conformément aux principes de la justice et de l'équité; mais il semblerait difficile d'inspirer la même confiance aux populations des territoires limitrophes, qui ont encore présent à la mémoire les démarches, restées jusqu'ici infructueuses, des propriétaires émigrés de la Grèce lors de la déclaration de l'indépendance Hellénique, ainsi que les traitements subis par les propriétaires Musulmans dans toutes les parties

de la Roumélie, où il s'est fait des remaniements territoriaux dernièrement. La méfiance que ressentent les populations Albanaises à l'égard des Hellènes en général est tellement grande que le Gouvernement Ottoman ne saurait réagir efficacement contre ce sentiment, sans s'exposer non-seulement à prendre son prestige aux yeux de ces populations, mais encore à s'imposer des sacrifices énormes, pour leur faire accepter un état de choses qu'elles considéraient comme un assujettissement inique.

MM. les Commissaires de Sa Majesté le Roi comprendront sans doute qu'un Gouvernement ne saurait impunément faire *fide* l'opinion publique, quelque peu éclairée qu'elle soit, et ils voudront bien, en conséquence, apprécier les motifs qui obligent leurs collègues Ottomans à refuser d'entrer dans toute discussion quant à la ligne de démarcation, avant que la question des propriétés soit réglée. Il serait d'autant plus opportun d'arriver à une entente à ce sujet que les populations, parties directement intéressées dans le réglement de cette question, verraient ainsi que toute satisfaction aura été donnée à leurs intérêts personnels, et deviendraient, peut-être, plus aptes a apprécier les intentions pacifiques et les sentiments de conciliation du Gouvernement Hellénique; ce serait en même temps faciliter, dans une certaine mesure, aux Commissaires Ottomans l'accomplissement d'une mission delicate, qui ne saurait aboutir que grâce au concours éclairé et à l'esprit d'impartialité de leurs collègues Hellènes.

MM. les Commissaires de Sa Majesté le Roi pensent revenir sur ces questions dans la prochaine séance, fixée au Lundi le $\frac{29 \text{ Janvier}}{10 \text{ Février}}$ à 9 heures et demie A.M.

La séance est levée à 4 heures du soir.

(Signé) GH. AH. MOUKHTAR.
T. CONSTANT.
CH. SOUTZO.
G. ZINOPULO.
P. TH. KOLOCOTRONIS.

Protocole No. 2.—Seance du $\frac{29 \text{ Janvier}}{10 \text{ Février}}$ 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour la Grèce—
M. le Général S. Soutzo,
M. G. Zinopulo,
M. P. Kolocotronis.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Ghazi Moukhtar Pacha,
Son Excellence Constant Pacha.

La séance est ouverte à 9 heures et demie.

Le procès-verbal de la séance précédente est lu et adopté.

MM. les Commissaires de Sa Majesté le Roi, pour faire suite aux discussions de la séance précédente, donnent lecture de la réponse suivante:—

"Ils font observer que leur mission consiste purement et simplement à se mettre d'accord avec leurs collègues Ottomans sur les bases d'une entente ayant pour but unique la rectification des frontières entre les deux Etats, conformément aux indications du Protocole No. 13 du Congrès de Berlin.

"L'œuvre à accomplir se diviserait en trois parties: la première se bornerait à l'établissement de la ligne de démarcation; la seconde serait la rédaction du Traité à intervenir entre les deux Gouvernements; et la troisième comprendrait les opérations à faire sur le terrain pour fixer les nouvelles limites.

"Dans la pensée de MM. les Commissaires Hellènes la tâche de la Commission consiste tout simplement à établir d'un commun accord les bases de l'entente qui doit constituer la première période susmentionnée.

"En partant de ce principe ils font observer que la question des propriétés, soulevée par MM. les Commissaires Ottomans, est tout-à-fait en dehors de leur compétence.

"Toutefois, pour faciliter, les négociations ils ont cru de leur devoir d'en référer à leur Gouvernement et ils sont autorisés à déclarer de sa part, que la législation du Royaume est assez libérale pour sauvegarder les droits des habitants tant personnels que réels, et que si, une fois la ligne des frontières décidée, il fallait pour l'exécution convenable de la rectification, prendre des mesures législatives exigées par les circon-

stances, les deux Gouvernements pourraient s'entendre à cet effet par un note international."

MM. les Commissaires Hellènes ajoutent que cette déclaration étant tout-à-fait incidente et en dehors de leur competence, elle doit être regardée comme un appendice au procès-verbal.

Pour en revenir à l'objet même des négociations présentes, les Commissaires du Gouvernement Hellénique pensent devoir persister sur l'adoption de la ligne indiquée par le Protocole No. 13 du Congrès de Berlin, et sanctionnée par l'Article XXIV du Traité du 13 Juillet, 1878.

D'une autre part, leurs Excellences les Commissaires de la Sublime Porte ayant déclaré considérer les limites indiquées dans le Protocole susmentionné comme inadmissibles, les Commissaires de Sa Majesté le Roi sont portés à croire que les négociations ne pourront pas aboutir d'une entente, tant que MM. les Commissaires Ottomans ne seront pas revenus sur leurs déclarations primitives, pour se placer à un point de vue plus conforme aux résolutions du Congrès.

La séance est levée à 11 heures A.M.

(Signé) GH. AH. MOUKHTAR.
T. CONSTANT.
CH. SOUTZO.
G. ZINOPULO.
P. TH. KOLOCOTRONIS.

Protocole No. 3.—Séance du 30 Janvier / 11 Février 1879.

Étaient présents :

Pour la Grèce—
M. le Général S. Soutzo,
M. G. Zinopulos,
M. P. Kolocotronis.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Ghazi Moukhtar Pacha.
Son Excellence Constant Pacha.

La séance est ouverte à 9 heures et demie A.M.

Le procès-verbal de la séance précédente est lu et adopté après quelques observations formulées par *MM. les Commissaires Hellènes.*

MM. les Commissaires Ottomans ayant pris connaissance de la réponse en date du 30 Janvier / 11 Février remise par écrit par MM. les Commissaires Hellènes constatent, avec regret, que ces derniers, au lieu d'entrer dans la voie des concessions réciproques, semblent vouloir déjà trancher la question qui fait l'objet des présentes délibérations et lui donner, pour ainsi dire, le caractère de la chose jugée.

Dans cet état de choses, MM. les Commissaires Ottomans croient devoir derechef faire remarquer que la divergence qui existe entre les Délégués des deux Gouvernements provient principalement de ce que la Turquie, même en s'en tenant seulement à la lettre du Protocole No. 13, considère le réglement de la question de la rectification des frontières comme une preuve de déférence à l'égard de l'Europe, tandis que la Grèce voudrait déjà donner au vœu exprimé par les Grandes Puissances la force d'une décision.

La meilleure preuve que la Turquie se place à un point de vue juste, en n'accordant aux indications du Protocole plus haut cité que la valeur d'un désir, c'est que les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin ont elles-mêmes abandonné à l'entente des deux parties le réglement de la question de la rectification. En dehors du Protocole No. 13, qu'ils pourraient invoquer avec autant de raison que MM. les Commissaires Hellènes, les Commissaires Ottomans croient devoir aussi mentionner l'extrait suivant du Protocole No. 18, pour prouver le bien fondé de leur prétention :—

"Le Président dit que le paragraphe relatif à la médiation des Puissances pour la rectification des frontières exprime un vœu du Congrès, et non pas une résolution à laquelle la Porte soit sollicitée de s'associer."

Ces paroles empruntent une autorité que l'on ne saurait méconnaître au caractère même du personnage qui les a prononcées, et MM. les Commissaires Ottomans constatent, que devant une déclaration aussi catégorique, il n'y a plus lieu

d'entrer en controverse sur l'interprétation à donner à la motion de son Excellence M. Waddington.

Ils croient, en outre, devoir ajouter que quoique la réponse donnée par MM. les Commissaires Hellènes comporte quelques observations relativement à la question des propriétés, observations qui du reste ont été présentées en partie dans la première séance de la Commission, ils pensent qu'avant tout il y a absolument lieu d'établir un accord sur la valeur à attacher aux indications du Protocole No. 13, et, par conséquent, ils réservent pour le moment la question des propriétés, pour ne s'occuper que de faire disparaître la divergence qui existe entre eux et leurs collègues Hellnès sur le sens et la portée de la teneur du dit Protocole; ils continuent, du reste, à espérer que MM. les Commissaires de Sa Majesté le Roi voudront bien leur prêter leur concours à ces fins, pour arriver au résultat désiré.

MM. les Commissaires Hellènes se réservent de répondre à la prochaine séance, fixée au Jeudi 1/13 Février, à 9 heures et demie A.M.

La séance est levée à 11 heures A.M.

(Signé) GH. AH. MOUKHTAR.
T. CONSTANT.
CH. SOUTZO.
G. ZINOPULOS.
P. TH. KOLOCOTRONIS.

Protocole No. 4.—Séance du Jeudi, 1/13 Février, 1879.

Étaient présents :

Pour la Grèce—
M. le Général Soutzo,
M. G. Zinopulos,
M. P. Kolocotronis.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Ghazi Moukhtar Pacha,
Son Excellence Constant Pacha.

La séance est ouverte à 9 heures et demie A.M.

Le Protocole de la séance précédente est lu et adopté.

MM. les Commissaires Hellènes lisent la déclaration suivante :—

"Les Commissaires du Gouvernement Hellénique ayant pris connaissance de la contre-déclaration de leurs Excellences les Commissaires du Gouvernement Ottoman, lue dans la séance du 30 Janvier / 11 Février ont l'honneur de déclarer, que comme il n'est point de leur compétence d'entrer dans une discussion sur l'interprétation des Protocoles du Congrès de Berlin, interprétation qui appartient du reste aux Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, ils ne peuvent pas répondre au désir de MM. les Commissaires Ottomans, contenu dans la contre-déclaration susdite. Les Commissaires du Gouvernement Hellénique devant s'entendre avec leurs Excellences les Commissaires du Gouvernement Ottoman sur la rectification des frontières en vertu du Protocole No. 13, sanctionné par l'Article XXIV du Traité de Berlin, se trouvent dans l'impossibilité de s'éloigner de cette base."

MM. les Commissaires Ottomans déclarent qu'avant tout il y avait lieu pour eux d'être bien fixés sur le sens et la portée des indications du Protocole No. 13, il résulte de la déclaration faite au début de la séance par MM. les Commissaires Hellènes, que ces derniers ne sont pas autorisés à discuter sur l'interprétation à donner au Protocole plus haut mentionné. Dans ce cas MM. les Commissaires Ottomans croient utile de demander à leurs collègues Hellènes s'ils se refuseraient à entrer dans des pourparlers pour la fixation d'une autre ligne qu'ils auraient à leur proposer.

MM. les Commissaires Hellènes répondent qu'ils considèrent la ligne fixée par le Protocole comme la seule base de négociations possible.

MM. les Commissaires Ottomans font remarquer, que d'après leurs instructions ils se voient obligés, tout en admettant le principe de la rectification, d'être d'un avis contraire en ce qui concerne la ligne de démarcation indiquée par ce Protocole.

MM. les Commissaires Hellènes croient devoir faire observer, que pour arriver à une entente il faut admettre une base identique; or les Commissaires Ottomans ayant divisé la teneur du Protocole en deux parties, la première celle du principe de la rectification des frontières qu'ils admettent, la deuxième celle de la ligne de démarca-

tion indiquée, qu'ils n'admettent pas, ils font disparaître cette base commune, sans laquelle toute délibération devient impossible.

Leurs Excellences les Commissaires Ottomans répondent que, tout en admettant le principe de la rectification, ils ne peuvent considérer, pour leur part, la ligne indiquée comme une chose décidée, car, en admettant cette ligne, on donnerait, dans leur pensée, naissance à un état de choses contraire au but que le Congrès se proposait, ainsi qu'ils l'ont du reste exposé longuement dans les séances précédentes. En proposant une discussion sur la portée du Protocole No. 13 ils ne croient pas d'ailleurs s'écarter de l'esprit qui a présidé à la rédaction de ce document; puisque les Hautes Parties Contractantes, en subordonnant la solution de la question à l'entente des deux parties directement intéressées avaient, par le fait même, conservé à ces derniers le droit de la discuter; autrement, elles se seraient bornées, comme cela a été le cas pour les délimitations faites dans les autres parties de la Turquie d'Europe, à décider l'envoi sur les lieux d'une Commission technique, qui aurait arrêté sur le terrain les détails de la ligne indiquée d'une manière générale par le Congrès. Du moment qu'il y a divergence d'opinion entre leurs collègues Hellènes et eux, non sur le principe de la rectification admis par la Sublime Porte, mais sur la ligne indiquée par le Protocole pour servir de frontières entre les deux Etats, ils se réservent, pour faire disparaître cette divergence, de demander de nouvelles instructions à leur Gouvernement.

MM. les Commissaires Hellènes, tout en reconnaissant l'esprit de conciliation qui anime leurs collègues MM. les Commissaires Ottomans, regrettent de ne pas pouvoir arriver à une entente, attendu que les instructions du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Roi ne leur permettent pas d'entrer dans une discussion sur l'interprétation à donner au Protocole No. 13.

MM. les Commissaires Ottomans remercient leurs collègues Hellènes des sentiments exprimés par eux, et déclarent qu'ils en référeront comme ils l'ont déjà déclaré à leur Gouvernement. Néanmoins, ils manifestent l'espoir que les travaux de la Commission aboutiront à l'entente si désirée par les deux parties et cela, grâce toujours au concours éclairé que MM. les Commissaires Hellènes n'ont pas manqué de leur prêter jusqu'ici.

La séance est levée à midi.

Le présent procès-verbal est lu et adopté le jour même.

(Signé) GH. AH. MOUKHTAR.
T. CONSTANT.
CH. SOUTZO.
G. ZINOPULOS.
P. TH. KOLOCOTRONIS.

Séance du $\frac{9}{21}$ *Mars*, 1879.

Étaient présents:

Pour la Grèce—
M. le Général Soutzo,
M. le Major P. Kolocotronis.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Ghazi Moukhtar Pacha,
Son Excellence Constant Pacha.

La séance est ouverte à 9 heures A.M.

Les Commissaires Ottomans exposent que, depuis la demande qu'ils ont faite à Constantinople de nouvelles instructions, il s'est écoulé un mois. Si la Sublime Porte a cru devoir faire attendre les Commissaires des deux Puissances durant tout ce temps, cela a été, sans doute, pour trouver une combinaison qui peut faciliter l'entente si vivement désirée entre les deux Etats.

Leurs Excellences espèrent arriver à une solution heureuse et elles prient leurs collègues Hellènes de leur prêter leur concours, en cherchant, d'un commun accord, à aplanir, comme par le passé, les difficultés qui pourraient surgir, et à contribuer ainsi à ramener la cordialité dans les relations de la Sublime Porte et du Cabinet d'Athènes.

MM. les Commissaires Hellènes déclarent qu'ils sont animés des mêmes sentiments et qu'ils continueront à faire preuve de la meilleure volonté possible, tout en restant dans les limites de leurs instructions, pour tomber d'accord. Ils prient leurs collègues

Ottomans de leur faire connaître quelle serait, d'après leurs nouvelles instructions, la ligne de démarcation que la Sublime Porte proposerait pour servir de frontière entre les deux Etats. Les Commissaires répondent que la Sublime Porte, pour arriver à un résultat pratique, a dû prendre en considération plusieurs points qu'elle persiste à regarder pour elle comme d'une importance capitale. Il y a d'abord la question Albanaise qui devrait, à juste titre, être, autant pour la Turquie que pour la Grèce, un sujet de sérieuse préoccupation. En dehors de cette question, il y a encore celle d'assurer à la partie de la Thessalie qui restera à la Turquie un débouché vers la mer; ensuite vient la question stratégique sur la quelle les Commissaires Ottomans croient aussi devoir attirer l'attention de leurs collègues Hellènes.

La Sublime Porte a dû tenir compte de ces trois questions avant d'indiquer une nouvelle ligne; pour elle la nécessité s'est imposée de réserver d'une façon absolue toute cession de territoire qui aurait pour résultat inévitable d'amener au paroxysme l'effervescence qui s'est manifesté dans l'Albanie depuis qu'il a été question d'une rectification de frontières entre les deux Etats. Les Commissaires Ottomans croient inutile de revenir sur les motifs qui ont donné naissance à cet état de choses longuement développé du reste dans la Protocole de la séance du 27 Février. Cependant, le Gouvernement Ottoman, pour montrer jusqu'à quel point il est désireux de mettre fin à l'état latent de méfiance qui domine dans ses relations avec le Gouvernement Hellénique, a resolu de s'imposer même des sacrifices et de faire des concessions tels qu'il n'y eût plus de doute sur la sincérité de ses désirs. Aussi les Commissaires Ottomans, devant l'insuffisance des cartes existantes, et le défaut de précision dans ces cartes, qui les empêchent d'indiquer avec une exactitude même relative un tracé quelconque, déclarent que, d'après leurs instructions, la ligne à déterminer devrait partir d'un point entre Armyro et Volos, sur le golfe du même nom, pour aboutir à un point convenable de la Vallée de l'Aspropotamos, après avoir englobé Armyro, Domoco, qui seraient cédés à la Grèce, ainsi qu'une partie de territoire des districts de Carditza et Pharsales, qui serait ultérieurement déterminée entre les deux parties. S'il était possible d'arriver à une entente sur cette base générale, l'on pourrait envoyer sur les lieux des officiers topographes, avec la mission de faire des vérifications, qui permettraient de désigner les points par lesquels passerait la ligne de démarcation. L'importance des localités plus haut désignées, au point de vue stratégique et économique, n'échappera sans doute pas à MM. les Commissaires Hellènes. La ligne que MM. les Commissaires Ottomans ont indiquée, d'une manière générale, présenterait pour les deux parties des avantages incontestables. Ainsi, son point de départ sur le Golfe de Volos ferait disparaître tout danger de contestations futures; de même, le point terminus sur l'Aspropotamos pourrait être fixé de telle manière qu'il pût être pour les deux Puissances, non-seulement une bonne ligne stratégique, mais encore une ligne naturelle, qui pût réunir toutes les conditions voulues pour les intérêts commerciaux tant que ceux d'un ordre public de la Turquie et de la Grèce.

Les Commissaires du Gouvernement Hellénique regrettent que le temps écoulé depuis la dernière séance n'ait abouti finalement qu'à la proposition de la part de leurs Excellences les Commissaires Ottomans d'une ligne de frontières qui n'est pas du tout conforme aux indications du Protocole No. 13 du Congrès de Berlin.

Son Excellence M. Waddington, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de France, en proposant une rectification des frontières, indiqua comme point de départ les Vallées du Ponde et du Kalama. Cette proposition fut adoptée par les Puissances Signataires du Traité, et sanctionné par l'Article XXIV de ce même Traité.

Dans la dernière séance du $\frac{1}{13}$ Février les Commissaires Hellènes ont formellement déclaré qu'ils se trouvaient dans l'impossibilité de se départir de cette base. MM. les Commissaires Ottomans ont déclaré de leur côté qu'ils la considéraient comme inadmissible. De là naquit la divergence d'opinions. MM. les Commissaires Ottomans, afin de faire disparaître cette divergence, crurent nécessaires de demander à leur Gouvernement de nouvelles instructions. Mais, d'après ces nouvelles instructions, la ligne proposée ne répond nullement aux indications du dit Protocole; par conséquent, elle est inacceptable de la part du Gouvernement Hellénique. C'est pourquoi les Commissaires se croient obligés de mettre fin aux séances, et ils expriment le désir qu'il soit procédé, séance tenante, à la rédaction du procès-verbal. En même temps ils prient leurs Excellences les Commissaires Ottomans de vouloir bien leur désigner l'heure où ils pourront avoir l'honneur de venir prendre congé d'elles.

Les Commissaires Ottomans regrettent vivement de voir que les instructions données à MM. les Commissaires Hellènes ne leur permettent pas de continuer les négotiations, et tout en rendant hommage à l'extrême courtoisie et à l'esprit de conciliation de leurs collègues Hellènes, ne peuvent s'empêcher de constater que l'entente

que se proposaient les deux parties n'a pu être amenée, grâce à la manière de voir du Cabinet d'Athènes, qui persiste à s'en tenir, d'une façon trop absolue, aux indications du Protocole No. 13 du Congrès de Berlin. Ils ne se considèrent pas autorisés à se prêter à une rupture des négociations, et ils ne peuvent, dans le cas que leurs collègues MM. les Commissaires Hellènes persistent dans leur résolution, qu'en prendre acte et en référer immédiatement à Constantinople pour agir suivant les instructions qu'ils recevront de leur Gouvernement.

La séance est levée à 10 heures A.M.

Le présent procès-verbal a été lu et adopté ce jour même.

(Signé) GH. AH. MOUKHTAR.
J. CONSTANT.
CH. SOUTZO.
P. TH. KOLOCOTRONIS.

No. 339.

M. Gennadius to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 15.)

64, *Pall Mall, April* 14, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my letter of the 12th instant, inclosing copies of the Protocols of the Commissioners at Prevesa, I have now the honour to submit, for your Lordship's consideration, copy of a note received since from M. Delyanni, and disposing of certain fanciful allegations of the Turkish Commissioners, as set forth by them in the first Protocol.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. GENNADIUS.

Inclosure in No. 339.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.

Athènes, le $\frac{29 \text{ Mars}}{11 \text{ Avril}}$ 1879.

Monsieur,

DANS la première séance de la Commission à Preveza les Commissaires Ottomans ont déclaré qu'ils sont convaincus qu'un Etat Constitutionnel comme la Grèce s'empressera de sauvegarder les droits des habitants des parties des territoires à annexer qui voudraient s'expatrier, et de régler la question de leurs propriétés, conformément aux principes de la justice et de l'équité. Mais il semblerait difficile, ont-ils ajouté, d'inspirer la même confiance aux populations des territoires limitrophes, qui ont encore présent à leur mémoire les démarches, restées jusqu'ici infructueuses, des populations émigrées de la Grèce lors de la déclaration de l'indépendance Hellénique.

Ces assertions des Délégués de la Porte sont complétement erronées, et prouvent que la mémoire leur fait défaut.

Toutes les réclamations en matière de propriété entre Grecs et Musulmans furent définitivement réglées et liquidées, et les intérêts des propriétaires émigrés, loin d'être lésés, ont reçu satisfaction pleine et entière.

Nous allons faire une courte excursion vers le passé pour démontrer ce que nous avançons.

D'après le Protocole du 3 Février, 1830, les Musulmans habitants de la Grèce qui voulaient passer en Turquie, devaient rendre leurs propriétés et quitter le territoire Hellénique dans l'espace d'une année.

Non-seulement ce délai a été itérativement renouvelé, et finalement prolongé jusqu'au $\frac{1}{13}$ Juillet, 1830; mais de plus le Gouvernement Royal, voulant aplanir toutes les difficultés que les propriétaires Musulmans pourraient rencontrer dans l'arrangement de leurs affaires, institua, en vertu de la loi promulguée en 1836, une Commission Mixte spécialement chargée de régler toutes les litiges entre Grecs et Turcs provenant des ventes des propriétés.

Deux Commissaires Ottomans y siégeaient, et tous les procès de la nature sus-indiquée furent soustraits aux Tribunaux ordinaires, et déférées à cette Commission.

On voulut par là dégager les procès en question des lenteurs de la procédure ordinaire, et amener une prompte liquidation des affaires relatives aux propriétés des Musulmans en Grèce. Pour ne laisser aucun intérêt en souffrance cette Commission fonctionna bien au-delà du terme qui leur fut primitivement assignée.

Ce n'est qu'en 1859 qu'une loi fut promulguée mettant fin au mandat de cette Commission, en lui accordant toutefois une prolongation de deux ans et demi, pour vider toutes les questions pendantes.

On voit par ce qui précède combien le Gouvernement Royal à tenu à entourer de toutes les garanties possibles les droits des émigrés.

Après avoir soumis leurs réclamations à une juridiction exceptionnelle, et leur avoir accordé toutes sortes de facilités, le Gouvernement Royal, mû par un sentiment d'équité et de conciliation, apporta un soin tout particulier à satisfaire même aux réclamations qui n'étaient pas fondées en droit.

Ainsi les héritiers d'Ismaïl Bey, ayant relevé des réclamations sur cinq villages situés à Thèbes, le Gouvernement Royal y fit droit, bien qu'une des Puissances protectrices de la Grèce n'eut pas hésité à reconnaître que ces revendications étaient sans aucun fondement.

Par un arrangement conclu avec la Porte le $\frac{1}{7}$ Avril, 1867, le Gouvernement Royal accorda aux héritiers sus-nommés à titre d'indemnité, une somme de 360,000 drachmes, qui leur fut intégralement payée.

Lorsqu'on peut citer des faits de cette nature, toute autre réfutation des insinuations des Délégués de la Porte nous paraît inutile.

La Grèce a toujours respecté les droits de propriété, et lorsqu'en 1833 la Régence prenait possession, au nom du Roi Othon, de l'Attique, Phtiotide, et Eubée, la Proclamation lancée à cette occasion contenait les paroles mémorables que, non-seulement toute facilité sera accordée pour la vente des propriétés des émigrés, mais que la religion et les biens des Musulmans qui voudraient rester en Grèce seront protégés à l'égal des autres citoyens.

La Grèce a tenu ses engagements, et les Turcs qui sont restés à Chalcis, et qui jouissent de tous les droits civils et politiques, n'ont eu qu'à se louer de la situation qui leur a été faite.

Après tout ce que nous venons d'exposer, nous aimons à espérer qu'on appréciera, à leur juste valeur, les allégations des Commissaires de la Porte.

Je vous prie de donner lecture de la présente à son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Grande Bretagne, et lui en laisser copie s'il le demande.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) TH. P. DELYANNI.

No. 340.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 15.)

(No. 325.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 14, 1879.

FOLLOWING from Chermside, dated yesterday:—

"Orders were received here by Governor-General at end of March to occupy Zeitoun with troops before arrival of Imperial Commission, and commence construction of a barrack. Consul and I were informed on very best authority that Zeitoun was to be attacked by strategy, resistance to be completely crushed, and occupation to be an accomplished fact before arrival of Commission. These orders were not carried out, but I have just heard on same authority that these orders should be at once countermanded in order to enable Commission to commence its labours, with spirit of which they seem quite incompatible. Any movement of troops might lead to disastrous consequences, and besides appear quite unnecessary. Christian Commissioner informs me confidentially that if carried out he intends to resign."

No. 341.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 15.)

(No. 326.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 14, 1879.

THE Representatives of the Porte at the capitals of the Signatory Powers will be instructed to-day by telegraph to request the assent of the Governments to which they are accredited to the nomination of Aleko Pasha as Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia.

No. 342.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 15.)

(No. 327.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 14, 1879.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 325 the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs have promised that orders shall be sent that no military measures shall be undertaken, without the consent of the Commission.

(Communicated to Lieutenant Chermside.)

No. 343.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 15.)

(No. 328. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 14, 1879.

THE Grand Vizier said to me that I should receive a decisive answer with regard to [? offer] of England concerning Greece to-morrow. His Highness went on to say that if the Sultan put himself into our hands unreservedly, he would be held to have surrendered territory which Turkey would ultimately lose, whilst, on the other hand, the advantage which would accrue from this course, that is [? to] say, the retention of the towns of Janina and Larissa, would be useless, if a large tract of country was not also preserved in their neighbourhood, which hope was not held out. His Majesty felt deeply the friendly offer of Her Majesty's Government, but he had told the Grand Vizier, with much [? eloquence], and with tears in his eyes, that he could not of his own free will surrender provinces whose inhabitants besought his protection. If the Signatory Powers insisted, His Majesty's people would at least know that he was yielding to an united pressure which he was powerless to resist.

His Highness told me also, confidentially, that the line which had been decided in Council, and which I telegraphed in my telegram No. 321, had not been accepted by Sultan, who had refused to [? accept] an offer which should include both Prevesa and Volo.

No. 344.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 15.)

(No. 329.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 14, 1879.

CONSUL-GENERAL MICHELL has arrived. I think it better that he should not go to Philippopolis till he has his exequatur, lest objections should be raised by the Russians. I have pressed for the immediate issue of the exequatur.

No. 345.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 15.)

(No. 330.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 15, 1879.

MY telegram No. 327 of yesterday was a repetition of one to Consul at Aleppo.

No. 346.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 15.)

(No. 331.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 15, 1879.

FOLLOWING telegram sent to Consul-General Green to-day:—

"Russia having informed the Minister for Foreign Affairs that Montenegro desired to be represented in Turkey by the Russian authorities, Minister for Foreign Affairs has refused to accede to arrangement. Russian Ambassador has urged that Article XXXI of Treaty does not say that Montenegrin Agents shall be Montenegrins, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs has replied that it does say Montenegro "s'entendra directement avec la Porte," and that the Prince must therefore send an Envoy to arrange the matter."

No. 347.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 15.)

(No. 42.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April* 14, 1879.

M. DE GIERS fully admits the unadvisability of mobilizing gymnastic societies, and will forbid it, though he does not believe such a project could have been entertained. I have again pressed him about expulsion of Mahommedans by Christians in Roumelia, which he also promises to try to stop.

He told me confidentially he intended trying to persuade the Emperor to send some big man straight from here to compel the Roumeliotes to accept new régime as being in accordance with the Emperor's will.

No. 348.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 15.)

(No. 43.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April* 14, 1879.

I MADE your assent to such portions of Prince Gortchacow's suggested modifications—reported in my despatch No. 91 of the 8th instant—of your alternative plan as were acceptable, dependent on Russian Government agreeing to majority principle. I am waiting to learn to what degree Russian Circular meets your views. On every other point we seem to have arrived at a complete understanding. Dispositions of this Government continue favourable.

No. 349.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 15.)

(No. 144.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April 14, 1879.*

M. SCHMIDT, who is here for a few days, has received letters confirming the news about Aleko mentioned in my telegram of yesterday. He is staying with the Gueshoffs. I have as yet received no answer from Lord Donoughmore. The French formally declare this candidate to be a daring intriguer.

Lord Donoughmore telegraphs that a petition is circulating for signature praying for Coutouly as Governor-General.

Schmidt's letter mentions a report that the Turks are at Bourgas. Austrian Commissioner has news that six battalions of Eastern Roumelian militia are being massed there.

I just hear that Aleko has arrived here from Philippopolis.

Stolipine has threatened to suppress Greek newspaper for publishing outrages committed by Bulgarians on Turks.

A traveller just arrived tells me that his train was crowded with Turkish refugees, escaping and leaving their goods on the ground rather than miss the opportunity. Six villages round Hermanli are entirely deserted.

No. 350.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 15.)

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April 15, 1879.*

THE six Commissioners who are present in Constantinople met to-day. In the absence of the Italian Commissioner, the meeting was adjourned to 18th, when Italian will be present.

No. 351.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 25.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 15, 1879, midnight.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 43, in its present form Russian Circular is hardly sufficient. There is no attempt to define the difference between principles and details. Nothing to prevent them calling every dispute a question of principle.

They admit the principle that in tracing the line consideration is to be had to the necessity of defending Turkey on the Balkan and frontiers of Eastern Roumelia.

Will they admit that the question how far, and in what spots, this principle is to be applied, shall be regarded as question of detail?

No. 352.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 194. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April 15, 1879.*

THE Austrian Ambassador has informed me that a communication has been made to Count Andrassy by M. de Novikoff to the effect that the Russian Government consider it a matter of the highest importance that the work of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission should be concluded before the evacuation of the Principality by the Russian troops takes place.

Count Karolyi stated that although his Government does not object to instruct their Commissioner to expedite the work of delimitation as much as lies in his power, they cannot allow that the term of the evacuation depends in any way upon the proceedings of the Delimitation Commission, and that they look upon any postponement of the evacuation as likely to be productive of far greater dangers than any that might result from the operations of the Commission being carried on after the evacuation shall have been completed.

I informed Count Karolyi in reply that M. Bartholomei had also a few days ago made a communication to me which was apparently similar to that received by Count Andrassy, and that I had simply answered that I would instruct General Hamley to do all in his power to hasten the operations of the Delimitation Commission. I at the same time stated to his Excellency that I concurred with him in thinking it not improbable that the Russian Government might intend to imply by this communication that the evacuation ought to be delayed until the delimitation is complete, but that such a doctrine appeared to me to be wholly untenable, and would be repudiated by Her Majesty's Government.

I have accordingly to request that your Excellency, if you should see no reason to the contrary, will avail yourself of any suitable opportunity which may present itself for intimating to the Russian Government that Her Majesty's Government would be unable to admit any such contention on their part should it be put forward.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 353.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 196.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April 15, 1879.*

IN reply to your Excellency's telegram No. 43 of yesterday's date, inquiring how far the Circular just sent by the Russian Government meets our views as to the settlement of disputed questions which may arise in the several Frontier Commissions, I have informed you this day, by telegraph, that, in its present form, the proposal of the Russian Government is scarcely sufficient.

A distinction is drawn in the Circular between questions of principle and those of detail; the latter are to be settled by a vote of the majority in the Commission, while the former are to be referred back to the several Governments. But no attempt is made to define the manner in which this classification is to be effected. There is nothing, as the proposal now stands, to prevent the Russian Commissioners from calling every disputed point a question of principle. The Russian Government admit the principle that in tracing the line along the Balkans consideration is to be paid to the necessity of giving to Turkey a defensible frontier. But it still remains doubtful whether they are prepared to admit that the question how far and in what spots this principle is to be applied shall be regarded as a matter of detail.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 354.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 533.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 12, 1879.*

THE Ottoman Ambassador called upon me and stated that, though the Circular which he had handed to me ten days before had undoubtedly conveyed a refusal of the proposal for a mixed military occupation, it still left room for negotiations; and he was now charged to tell me that the Porte were not prepared to uphold that refusal if all the Powers concurred in pressing the arrangement upon them.

I said that there did not seem to be any prospect of such unanimity at the present moment. I observed to his Excellency that it appeared that his Government had received no formal communication upon the subject at all. The proposal had been confidentially mentioned to the Grand Vizier by Mr. Malet, but it was not with England that it had originated. Every other Power in Europe had received it from Russia, and until Turkey received it from Russia it was hardly possible to discuss it on the assumption that the consent of Turkey had been formally solicited.

His Excellency concurred with me in this opinion. He then spoke to me of the loan. He represented the financial distress of Turkey as the real impediment to the collection of a sufficient force upon her northern frontier to ensure the execution of the Treaty, and pressed that Her Majesty's Government should assent to the part assigned to it by the scheme of the Ottoman Bank.

I said that Her Majesty's Government had no objection to recommending Commissioners as he wished, provided always the consent of the bondholders concerned had been previously obtained.

He stated that he was in communication with Mr. Bouverie and Mr. Hamond upon this subject, that he had little doubt of obtaining the requisite consent, but that he much distrusted the action of the Ottoman Bank, who seemed determined to wreck the scheme if they could, by not providing themselves with this preliminary consent, without which he felt confident no such loan would ever float in the English market.

His Excellency also spoke to me with respect to Egypt. He expressed the deep regret of the Sultan at the conduct of the Khedive, and His Majesty's willingness to co-operate with the Western Powers in taking such measures as should be thought advisable to restore an understanding between them and the Government of Egypt. But he pressed somewhat earnestly upon me that any communications we desired to make, whether they amounted to an announcement of deposition, or were of a less extreme character, should be made through the Porte. The Porte would willingly, he said, associate itself with the Western Powers in this matter, but those Powers would find themselves confronted by obstacles much more formidable than they anticipated if they attempted to act without its concurrence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 355.

The Marquis of Salisbury to M. Bartholomei.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Foreign Office, April 15, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 8th instant, informing me that the Russian Government have proposed that the Commissioners for the delimitation of the frontiers of Montenegro shall assemble at Cettigné.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 356.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 137. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, March 25, 1879.*

WITH reference to my last despatch in connection with the subject of the Chapter "Cultes," I venture to call your Lordship's attention to the considerations mentioned in my despatch No. 91 of the 1st instant.

The intimacy that has recently sprung up between the French Commissioners and the Exarch is not, I imagine, wholly disinterested. In fact it is plain that France, one way or the other, wishes to establish some kind of hold in Eastern Roumelia. For this purpose, I infer from different words and hints let drop, that the negotiations between the French and Bulgarians have taken this turn—France is to assist the Bulgarians in the attainment of religious and secular privileges. If she succeeds she will establish a hold on their sympathies. If she fails, the Exarch is prepared himself to turn Uniat, and to recommend this course to the Bulgarian churches under his control. In this case the Bulgarian Church, as being Romanized, would place itself under the protection of France.

I do not consider this possibility to be purely imaginary. The Greeks here tell me the Exarch was at one time a Uniat, and that he conformed to the Orthodox Church merely with a view to his own advancement. It is true that on a former occasion an attempt to Romanize the Bulgarian Church was only partially successful; but matters have much changed since the time of M. Bourrée, and the present Exarch is a man of great determination and ability. His one desire, as he tells me, is to develop the Bulgarian nationality by peaceful means—religion and education. If the Turks refuse to recognize him and his real or fancied rights, and if he, therefore, persuades the bulk of his churches to submit themselves to the Vatican, though his Church may be Roman, it will not be the less national. The latitude allowed by Rome to its Uniat congregations is well known. Nothing will be changed in ritual, discipline, or outward form; and the Bulgarian nation and Church, when consolidated, will have little to do to reconstitute themselves in the Orthodox communion.

From the attitude of both the French and Russian Commissioners I gather that their great intimacy has rather cooled. During the last few sittings no one was so strong against the clause proposed by Baron de Ring as Prince Tzeretelew, and yesterday the French Commissioners took part against the Russians on the financial question with unusual animation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I learn from a very trustworthy source that the report of the Exarch being a Uniat is incorrect. Stories here are so contradictory it is difficult to know what to believe.

H. D. W.

No. 357.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 138.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, March 25, 1879.*

AT our meeting yesterday, after reading the Protocol, M. de Ring asked leave to withdraw the personal declaration he had made at the previous sitting. Of course no one objected. The declaration had been so much in contradiction with the subsequent Report of M. de Coutouly, as to the line taken by the French with respect to the Bulgarian population, that the appearance of the two statements in the same Protocol would have been anomalous.

Baron de Ring next withdrew his objection to my amendment voted by six Commissioners on Article 5 of Chapter X, "Cultes."

He did this with much tact, saying that he did not wish the name of his country to figure in every reform drawn up for different parts of Turkey, and that he considered the wording of my amendment preserved all the rights France enjoyed by Treaty or ancient usage.

I stated that in drawing up this amendment I had never contemplated depriving France of any rights of which she was in possession.

We then passed M. Vernoni's Chapter on Agriculture, &c. It is technical, and far too long, but useful and based on Italian law. It was somewhat abridged, and passed.

We have now only one Chapter, a very short one, that of Real Property, prepared by MM. de Braunschweig, Vernoni, and myself, to which Baron de Ring has introduced an amendment. This Chapter, as well as the Règlements on the militia and gendarmerie, will probably be carried to-morrow, when the whole of our project will be completed, with the exception of the points kept open. Many of these, as I have informed your Lordship, have already privately been settled.

We then proceeded to discuss the resignation of M. Schmidt. For this purpose we established the principle of the majority. I proposed that he should be called in to explain his letter, on which I examined him in detail.

In the course of this examination both he and M. de Coutouly stated that they had themselves heard General Stolipine's harangue exciting the population against the Turks, and that it had been at once translated to them by a person whose mother tongue was Russian.

I then proposed the resolution, copy of which is inclosed, after having slightly altered it to suit the wishes of M. Vernoni. I separated the first paragraph from the second at the request of M. de Braunschweig, who wished to abstain from voting on the first.

The resolution was then put.

The first part was voted by five Commissioners, those of Austria, France, Great Britain, Italy, and Turkey. The German Commissioner abstained on the ground that he considered the Commission as a body was not competent to enter into relations with the Cabinets. The Russians alone voted against it.

The second paragraph was then carried by six Commissioners, the Russians not voting against it but abstaining.

The majority having been established these will figure on the Protocols as the resolutions of the Commission.

I have telegraphed to your Lordship the substance of the above intelligence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 357.

Motion.

LA Commission déclare qu'à cause des difficultés suscitées par certaines autorités Russes et à cause de l'Etat d'excitation de la population, elle n'a pas du mettre à exécution les stipulations de l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin, et, pour décharger toute sa responsabilité, elle attire l'attention des Cabinets sur cette déclaration.

En même temps la Commission prie M. Schmidt de continuer ses fonctions dans la mesure où il pourra les exercer, jusqu'à ce que la Commission soit dissoute.

No. 358.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 140. Secret.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, March 27, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a programme drawn up here by the Committee for the insurrection proposed to be raised on the departure of the Russian troops.

As your Lordship will perceive, it is couched in exaggerated terms, and magnifies in an absurd degree the forces of which the province could dispose.

This, however, is calculated to encourage the ignorant peasantry to whom it is addressed.

As corroborating to a certain extent the genuine character of this document, which I received through the instrumentality of Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert, I beg to call your Lordship's attention to my despatch No. 123 of the 20th instant, inclosing a copy of a notice inserted in the "Maritza" by the "Aurel Society," convoking a rifle gathering for the Easter week.

I am, however, not under any very grave apprehension of violence during the Russian occupation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 358.

Programme of Bulgarian Insurrection.

ON the $\frac{14}{26}$ April the Bulgarians shall be collected together at Philippopolis, armed; they shall burn the town and kill all the Turks and Greeks.

One portion of the insurgents shall proceed to the Balkans and occupy the positions there.

2. Every Bulgarian shall have on him six or seven okes of ammunition and biscuit. The reserve of biscuit and ammunition shall be carried in the carts of the peasantry. If, after much heroic resistance, the Bulgarians do not succeed in keeping back the Turks, they shall withdraw their forces to the Balkans, first of all laying waste the plain and destroying all the towns and villages therein.

3. The first rallying point (centre) in the Balkans shall be Panagurishté (Otloukeuï), where there shall be 40,000 troops, under the command of Baron Wolff.

4. Colonel Kessakoff shall be Commander-in-chief of the insurgents, and, with 70,000 men, he shall proceed in the direction of Adrianople, in order to prevent the entrance of the Turkish army (in Eastern Roumelia).

5. Any Bulgarian refusing to take up arms in order to fight shall be killed.

6. At Kezanlik 20,000 insurgents, at Kolofer 15,000, at Eski-Zaghra 10,000, at Slimnia (Slivno) 40,000, under command of Colonel Yankowski; and at Bourgas and Achiolou 30,000, with much artillery, under the command of Colonel Barbina, shall be concentrated.

7. The wives and children of all the insurgent population shall be transported to Sofia.

8. A hundred and twenty Russian officers of different grades shall share in the command of the insurgents.

9. The Exarch, the Archbishop Panaretos, Bishop Geroosios, and all the principal men ("tchorbadjis") of the Bulgarians, shall take part in the struggle, and any of them who refuse shall be killed.

10. Forty surgeons, fifteen dressers, and fifty ambulance carts shall be attached to the insurgent forces.

11. Five thousand Russian soldiers and 10,000 of the Bulgarian troops shall be drafted into the insurgent ranks.

12. The Moscow Committee undertake to defray all the expenses of the insurrection.

13. In case of insuccess of the insurgents, the Bulgarian Principality shall provide them with a reinforcement of 50,000 men.

14. There shall be formed a Committee of twelve ladies, whose mission shall be to collect donations of money, of lint, bandages, and every sort of article required by the sick and wounded. These twelve ladies shall also have the direction of two hospitals that shall be established in the mountains near Otloukeuï and near Kezanlik. To these hospitals there shall be attached 500 nurses, or Sisters of Mercy.

15. The principal revolutionary banner shall be made of the richest materials and embroidery. It shall be white and red, and shall bear on it, as a device, two eagles and a cross, above which shall be inscribed the words "Free Thrace;" and this banner shall be borne by the principal religious ecclesiastic.

No. 359.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 141.)

Philippopolis, March 27, 1879.

My Lord,

AT our sitting yesterday we passed in their final shape the Règlements or bye-laws of the Chapters on the militia and gendarmerie.

These went necessarily into very minute details in order that the expense of the two forces might be approximatively ascertained.

Inclosed are copies of the Chapters and Règlements.

Sir Collingwood Dickson has kindly promised to furnish me with a Report on the subject.

We next proceeded to discuss the Chapter on Real Property much augmented by some Articles proposed by Baron de Ring. These are very elaborate and lay down the principles on which the vacouf property should be redeemed. I myself should have preferred the original short Chapter proposed by the sub-Committee, of which I formed part. But as I think Baron de Ring's proposals contain the elements for settling a question which, as much as any other in this country, demands a speedy solution, I voted for them, together with all my colleagues, except the Turkish Commissioners. These gentlemen, having no instructions on the subject, reserved their vote, and this is one of the few questions still left open for negotiation at Constantinople.

These three points thus settled, M. de Kallay made a proposal previously announced, and for the consideration of which the Commission had accepted the principle of urgency. As I informed your Lordship in my despatch No. 130 of the 22nd instant, M. de Kallay has for some time been negotiating between the Russian and Turkish Commissioners for a compromise of the reserves made by them respectively.

He was able to announce that he had been successful in the majority of cases, owing, as he said, to the conciliatory disposition shown both by our Russian and Turkish colleagues. Four reserves alone remained open, and these on the part of the Ottoman Commissioners, who had not been furnished with instructions. These are—

1. The languages.
2. The estimate of revenue for five years on which three-tenths is to be given to the Sultan.
3. The Berats for Bishops.
4. The question stated above respecting the vacoufs.

On all other points the statute was completed.

Being all convinced that the portions left open could not be satisfactorily discussed except at Constantinople, we resolved to adjourn to that capital. To-day we have a sitting of the Commission which will probably be our last at Philippopolis.

The Commission is under great obligations to M. de Kallay for the patience, tact, and ability by which he was enabled to overcome vast difficulties.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 359.

CHAPITRE XI.—GENDARMERIE.

I.—*Bases de l'Institution.*

ARTICLE 1er. La gendarmerie est une force indigène instituée pour veiller à la sûreté publique et pour assurer le maintien de l'ordre, l'exécution des lois et celle des réglements de police rendus par les autorités compétentes. Une surveillance continue et répressive constitue l'essence de son service; son action s'exerce dans toute l'étendue du territoire de la province.

Art. 2. La gendarmerie est particulièrement destinée à assurer la sûreté des villes, des campagnes, et des voies de communication.

Elle contribue, en outre, de concert avec les agents de la police rurale, à surveiller les lieux publics et à y maintenir l'ordre. A ce titre, elle est toujours aux ordres des représentants de l'autorité administrative pour dissiper, par les voies légales, les attroupements séditieux.

La gendarmerie est subordonnée également aux fonctionnaires de l'ordre judiciaire pour procéder aux enquêtes et aux recherches, pour en constater les

résultats par procès-verbaux et pour opérer les arrestations en vertu de mandats d'amener.

Au cas de flagrant délit ou de suspicion légitimée par des informations probantes, elle a le droit de procéder spontanément aux arrestations, à charge pour elle d'en dresser immédiatement procès-verbal et de conduire, dans les vingt-quatre heures au plus tard, les personnes arrêtées devant l'officier de police judiciaire dans le ressort duquel l'arrestation a eu lieu.

Elle peut enfin être chargée de conduire et d'escorter les prisonniers civils ou militaires, les fous dangereux, les convois d'armes et de munitions, et, d'une manière générale, remplir toutes les missions qui lui sont confiées par l'autorité administrative pour assurer le maintien de l'ordre à l'intérieur de la province.

Art. 3. La gendarmerie est placée, au point de vue de la discipline, de l'instruction, et de l'administration intérieures, sous les ordres directs du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Art. 4. La gendarmerie est directement subordonnée à l'autorité administrative et judiciaire pour l'exécution des dispositions contenues à l'Article 2; elle est, en conséquence, tenue d'obéir à toutes les réquisitions qui lui sont adressées par les fonctionnaires indiqués ci-dessus.

Les réquisitions doivent toujours être adressées au Chef de Détachement ou, en cas de refus, à celui qui commande immédiatement après lui. Elles doivent être formulées par écrit si le Chef de Détachement en fait la demande et ne peuvent être données et exécutées qui dans le ressort de celui qui les donne et de celui qui les exécute.

Art. 5. La gendarmerie peut, en cas de besoin, requérir, pour l'exécution de son mandat, toutes les fois qu'elle se sent gravement menacée, le concours des agents de la police rurale, des gardes forestiers, et même celui des simples citoyens.

Si elle se sent impuissante à remplir, sans le secours d'une force supplétive, une mission qui lui est confiée, elle prend, vis-à-vis de l'autorité administrative, l'initiative d'une proposition tendant à requérir la coopération des fractions permanentes de la milice locale.

Art. 6. Dans le cas où l'apparition de bandes armées mettrait en danger la sécurité d'une localité qui n'est pas le siége d'un fonctionnaire administratif, la gendarmerie prend immédiatement, à chargé d'en rendre compte sans retard, les dispositions nécessaires pour protéger la vie et les biens des citoyens. Elle peut, pour repousser une attaque ou poursuivre les perturbateurs, requérir les agents de la police rurale et elle en prend de droit le commandement.

Art. 7. Tout gendarme, dans l'exercice de ses fonctions, est investi des pouvoirs dévolus à une sentinelle; toute injure ou tout acte de résistance donne lieu à une poursuite devant les Tribunaux Militaires, et la pénalité est la même que pour injure ou rebellion contre une sentinelle.

Art. 8. Les droits et les devoirs du personnel de la gendarmerie, les détails de ses rapports avec les autorités civiles des divers ordres, et les instructions spéciales sur le service ordinaire et extraordinaire seront déterminés par une loi provinciale.

Un règlement annexé à ce Chapitre règle provisoirement le mode d'application immédiate de ces dispositions.

II.—*Organisation.*

Art. 9. L'unité d'organisation de la gendarmerie est la brigade. La brigade comprend de six à huit hommes.

Elle est composée d'hommes à pied ou d'hommes à cheval; il peut être aussi créé des brigades mixtes, composées d'hommes à pied et d'hommes à cheval.

La brigade est commandée par un sous-officier ou un brigadier.

Art. 10. La réunion de six à douze brigades constitue la section, sous les ordres d'un officier.

Art. 11. La compagnie est formé par la réunion sous un même commandement de deux à quatre sections. Le Chef de la compagnie est un capitaine.

Art. 12. Les Commandants de compagnies sont établis au chef-lieu des préfectures; leur ressort ne s'étend pas au-delà des limites du département.

Les Commandants de sections sont placés au chef-lieu des cantons. Deux cantons peuvent toutefois être réunis pour former le ressort d'une même section; dans ce cas, un sous-officier exerce le commandement direct dans le canton où ne réside pas le Commandant de la section.

Art. 13. En dehors des compagnies de gendarmerie départementale, il est formé, au chef-lieu de la province, un corps de gendarmerie mobile. Ce corps est plus

spécialement chargé du service de police urbaine au siége du Gouvernement; il est aussi à la disposition du Gouverneur-Général qui le dirige sur les points où les circonstances rendent momentanément nécessaire la présence d'une force auxiliaire.

La gendarmerie mobile, dont l'effectif variera selon l'état des ressources financières de la province, comprend un cadre de compagnie d'infanterie et un demi cadre d'escadron.

L'effectif permanent de la compagnie d'infanterie ne pourra être inférieur à soixante-dix hommes, celui de l'escadron à quarante cavaliers.

La gendarmerie mobile est commandé par un capitaine ou officier supérieur.

Art. 14. L'Etat-Major du corps de la gendarmerie comprend, en dehors du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie:

1. Un officier supérieur spécialement chargé du service des inspections et appelé à suppléer en cas d'empêchement le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie;
2. Un Capitaine ou officier supérieur, Chef de la Chancellerie;
3. Un officier Trésorier;
4. Un officier adjoint au Trésorier (facultatif);
5. Un officier chargé de l'habillement, de l'équipement, et de l'armement.

Un petit Etat-Major, composé de sous-officiers, caporaux et gendarmes, dont l'effectif est déterminé en raison du besoin et des ressources financières, est à la disposition des officiers de l'Etat-Major du corps pour remplir les fonctions de secrétaires et de garde magasins. Ces hommes sont classés dans la gendarmerie mobile, en excédant du cadre réglementaire.

Il est formé, dans le corps, un Conseil d'Administration composé:—

1. De l'Officier Supérieur Inspecteur, Président du Conseil;
2. Du Chef de la Chancellerie;
3. De l'Officier Trésorier;
4. De l'Officier d'Habillement;
5. Du Capitaine commandant la compagnie du chef-lieu, ou de l'officier commandant la gendarmerie mobile, à tour de rôle.

Le Conseil est collectivement responsable de la bonne gestion des deniers et matières.

Art. 15. Le Gouverneur-Général détermine, sur la proposition du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie et du Secrétaire-Général Directeur de l'Intérieur, la répartition des sections et des brigades dans les départements et cantons.

Le nombre des brigades et l'effectif des hommes à pied et à cheval sont fixés, dans les limites indiquées aux Articles 9 et 10, lors du vote du budget par l'Assemblée Provinciale.

La composition intérieure des brigades, en gendarmes à pied et gendarmes à cheval, est fixée par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, après entente avec le Directeur de l'Intérieur.

Le Gouverneur-Général, sur la proposition du Commandant de la police et de la gendarmerie, procède, selon les besoins du service, aux mutations dans le personnel des officiers, sous-officiers, et soldats de la gendarmerie.

Art. 16. Les officiers commandant les sections et les Capitaines commandant les compagnies remplissent, respectivement, les fonctions de Commissaires et de Commissaires Centraux de police, dans le ressort de leurs sections ou de leurs compagnies.

Par exception, le Capitaine commandant la compagnie départementale du chef-lieu de la province n'est pas investi de ces fonctions pour cette ville elle-même. Celles-ci sont dévolues au Commandant de la gendarmerie mobile qui est assisté, dans ce service, par les officiers subalternes placés sous ses ordres directs.

Art. 17. Les Préfets sont autorisés à modifier temporairement, en cas de besoin, l'état de répartition des brigades, en détachant, sur un point donné, le nombre des gendarmes qu'ils jugent nécessaire.

Ils transmettent, à cet effet, des ordres aux Commandants de compagnies qui sont tenus d'y déférer immédiatement. Les Préfets doivent en rendre compte sans retard au Secrétaire-Général Directeur de l'Intérieur. Les Commandants de compagnie, de leur côté, informent le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

III.—*Dispositions Générales.*

Art. 18. Conformément aux dispositions du Chapitre I, Article 7, les officiers subalternes de la gendarmerie sont nommés par le Gouverneur-Général agissant en vertu de la délégation permanente de Sa Majesté le Sultan. Ils sont recrutés, soit

parmi les officiers de la milice, sur la proposition de leurs chefs hiérarchiques, soit parmi les sous-officiers du corps de la gendarmerie, conformément aux dispositions réglementaires sur l'avancement.

A défaut de candidats de ces deux catégories, et, en particulier, pour la période d'organisation, le Gouverneur-Général est autorisé à nommer, sur la proposition d'une Commission présidée par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, soit des habitants de la province n'ayant servi que dans les corps provisoires organisés avant ou pendant l'occupation, soit des militaires ou d'anciens militaires étrangers.

Les uns et les autres ne sont toutefois admis qu'après constatation de leur aptitude technique.

Art. 19. Les sous-officiers, caporaux, et gendarmes de première classe sont nommés par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie sur des états de propositions établis par les Commandants de compagnie et approuvés par les Préfets.

Art. 20. Les officiers et sous-officiers de nationalité étrangère peuvent, en exécution des dispositions de l'Article 18, être admis dans la gendarmerie de la Roumélie Orientale, en vertu de contrats renouvelables à durée limitée; ces contrats, qui déterminent la durée de leur engagement, le grade qui leur est attribué, et le dédit pécuniaire qui leur est alloué en cas de résiliation anticipée, doivent être approuvés par une délibération spéciale du Comité Permanent.

Ces contrats ne peuvent, de même, être résiliés par le Gouverneur-Général que sur l'avis conforme du dit Comité.

Dans le cas où un officier étranger serait révoqué comme coupable d'un crime ou délit en vertu d'un Arrêt du Conseil de Guerre, le contrat se trouve résilié de fait et l'officier perd tout droit au paiement d'une indemnité.

Art. 21. La possession des grades conférés aux officiers originaires de la province ou qui y ont acquis l'indigénat est entourée des garanties ci-après indiquées:

Tout officier indigène ne peut être suspendu ou révoqué que par décision du Gouverneur-Général ou par Arrêt du Conseil de Guerre.

La suspension est prononcée par le Gouverneur-Général sur la proposition du Conseil Privé. La durée de la suspension par mesure disciplinaire ne peut excéder six mois; elle est d'un an au plus lorsqu'elle est prononcée pour cause d'infirmités temporaires. A l'expiration de cette période de six mois ou d'un an, le Gouverneur-Général est astreint à soumettre au Comité Permanent la question de la réintégration de l'officier; le Comité décide si celui-ci doit être révoqué, pensionné, ou réintégré.

L'officier suspendu conserve la qualité d'officier; il a droit, pendant la durée de sa suspension, à une solde de non activité, à la condition de fixer sa résidence dans une localité déterminée par le Gouverneur-Général. Tout refus d'obéissance de sa part entraîne, de droit, la révocation.

La révocation ne peut être prononcée par le Gouverneur-Général que sur l'avis conforme du Comité Permanent de l'Assemblée Provinciale: la décision affirmative de ce Comité n'oblige toutefois le Gouverneur-Général à prononcer la révocation que dans le cas de récidive ou si l'officier a été suspendu pendant six mois accomplis.

La révocation par Arrêt du Conseil de Guerre est prononcée en conformité des lois militaires en vigueur dans la province.

L'officier révoqué perd tous ses droits à la retraite, aux honneurs et à la solde de son grade, et cesse d'appartenir au corps de la gendarmerie.

Art. 22. Les décisions relatives à la suspension ou à la révocation sont immédiatement exécutoires; il ne peut y être fait appel.

Par exception à cette disposition générale, le Gouverneur-Général est obligé de soumettre à la ratification de Sa Majesté le Sultan l'arrêté de révocation rendu contre tout officier supérieur. Jusqu'à l'arrivée de la décision Impériale le concernant, l'officier supérieur mis en cause est seulement considéré comme suspendu.

Art. 23. La cassation et la rétrogradation des sous-officiers et caporaux sont prononcées par le Gouverneur-Général sur la proposition du Conseil d'Administration du corps, qui remplit, en ces circonstances, le rôle de Conseil de Discipline.

La suspension, pour les sous-officiers et caporaux, et la cassation, pour les gendarmes de première classe, sont prononcées par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

La durée de la suspension ne peut excéder trois mois.

Art. 24. La composition du personnel de la gendarmerie est réglée par le Gouverneur-Général et le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, de façon à établir une proportion équitable entre les divers éléments de population de la province.

Cette proportion devra se retrouver, autant que possible, dans la constitution des cadres.

Il sera tenu compte des mêmes principes pour la répartition des membres de la gendarmerie entre les différentes localités.

Art. 25. La gendarmerie est recrutée par voie d'engagements volontaires.

Ne sont admis à s'engager dans la gendarmerie que les hommes ayant terminé leur première année de service dans la milice locale. La durée du premier engagement est de deux ans. Il peut être renouvellé d'année en année jusqu'à ce que l'homme ait atteint vingt-cinq ans de services effectifs, époque à laquelle il a droit à la retraite.

Le Gouverneur-Général est toujours en droit d'annuler les engagements.

Art. 26. Nul ne peut être admis à s'engager comme gendarme :—

1. S'il ne produit les attestations légales d'une bonne conduite soutenue ;

2. S'il n'est doué d'une bonne constitution.

Nul ne peut être admis comme caporal ou être promu à ce grade s'il ne sait lire et écrire dans une des trois langues principales de la province.

Art. 27. Tout gendarme rengagé a droit, à partir du premier jour de sa cinquième année de service dans la gendarmerie, à une haute paie journalière d'ancienneté dont le chiffre est fixé, pour les soldats, caporaux, et sous-officiers, par le règlement provisoire ci-annexé.

Cette haute paie s'augmente annuellement jusqu'à la huitième année de service, après laquelle elle cesse de croître.

Tout gendarme rengagé porte sur la manche un chevron en laine ; ce chevron est en or pour les sous-officiers et pour les gendarmes ayant six ans de service accomplis.

Art. 28. Tout ancien gendarme qui rentre dans ses foyers après huit années de service et qui est porteur d'un certificat de bonne conduite délivré par le Conseil d'Administration du corps, est exempt des corvées et des prestations en nature pour les travaux de voirie et la fourniture ou la conduite de chevaux et voitures de réquisition.

Art. 29. Une loi provinciale fixera la solde des officiers, sous-officiers, et gendarmes, déterminera l'uniforme, l'équipement, et l'armement, et réglera les tarifs des frais de tournées supplémentaires, indemnités et gratifications. Elle déterminera l'organisation des services de la remonte, des fourrages, du casernement et des vivres, ainsi que celui des pensions et secours. Des dispositions spéciales seront prises pour assurer l'instruction des enfants des gendarmes mariés.

Les plus urgentes de ces dispositions sont déterminées, à titre provisoire, par le règlement ci-annexé, qui demeure exécutoire jusqu'au vote de la loi provinciale prévue à l'alinéa précédent.

Annexe au Chapitre XI.

Règlement Provisoire de la Gendarmerie.

I.—*Dispositions Générales.*

Serment.

Article 1er. Les membres de la gendarmerie, quel que soit leur grade, avant d'entrer en fonctions, sont tenus de prêter serment devant le Juge de Canton siégeant en audience publique. Ils s'engagent à observer les lois, à remplir leurs devoirs professionnels et à obéir aux ordres de leurs Chefs hiérarchiques.

Hiérarchie.

Art. 2. La hiérarchie militaire, dans la gendarmerie départementale ou mobile, se compose des grades ci-après :—

(*a.*) Gendarme de deuxième et de première classe :
Les gendarmes de première classe sont dans la proportion du cinquième au plus de l'effectif.

(*b.*) Brigadier (caporal) :
Commandant de Brigade (à pied ou à cheval) ; Secrétaire.

(*c.*) Maréchal des Logis (sergent) :
Commandant de Brigade (à pied ou à cheval) ; Secrétaire, Garde-magasin.

(*d.*) Maréchal des Logis Chef (sergent-major) :
En service seulement dans la légion mobile.

(*e.*) Sous-lieutenant et Lieutenant :
Commandant de Section ; Trésorier ; Officier d'Habillement ; Commandant de Peloton (dans l'escadron de la légion mobile).

(*f.*) Capitaine :
Commandant de Compagnie ; Trésorier ; Officier d'Habillement ; Commandant de la légion mobile ; Chef de la Chancellerie du Commandant Supérieur.

(*g.*) Major :
Chef de la Chancellerie du Commandant Supérieur ; Commandant de la légion mobile.

(*h.*) Lieutenant-Colonel, Colonel :
Inspecteur, suppléant du Commandant de la gendarmerie.

Art. 3. Le nombre des emplois de brigadiers est égal à celui des brigades augmenté de celui des brigadiers secrétaires et du nombre de brigadiers compris dans le cadre de la légion mobile.

Le nombre des Maréchaux de Logis est égal au tiers de celui des brigadiers.

Les sous-lieutenants et lieutenants sont indistinctement chargés des mêmes fonctions. Leur nombre est déterminé d'après celui des sections, augmenté du nombre de places de ce grade dans l'Etat-Major et dans la gendarmerie mobile.

Permissions, Congés, et renvois.

Art. 4. Le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie accorde seul, sur la proposition des Commandants de compagnie approuvée par les Préfets, les permissions et congés temporaires aux officiers de tous grades de la gendarmerie.

Des permissions de quinze jours au plus peuvent être accordées aux sous-officiers et gendarmes par les Commandants de compagnie dans la gendarmerie départementale et par le Commandant de la gendarmerie mobile dans ce corps. Les permissions ou congés d'une plus longue durée sont accordés seulement par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, sur la proposition des Commandants de compagnie.

Art. 5. Le Gouverneur-Général est toujours en droit d'annuler, sur la proposition du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, l'acte d'engagement d'un sous-officier, brigadier, ou gendarme, s'il ressort des informations fournies à son sujet par les Commandants de compagnie et par les Préfets qu'il est incapable de remplir son service ou que son service ou que son inconduite prolongée porte atteinte à la dignité de l'uniforme.

Le licenciement peut être aussi prononcé pour cause d'infirmités. Il donne droit, dans ce cas, à l'obtention d'une pension ou d'une gratification renouvelable.

II.—*Avancement. Admissions.*

Art. 6. L'avancement à tous les grades roule sur le corps entier de la gendarmerie, y compris la gendarmerie mobile.

Les emplois de brigadiers à pied et à cheval sont donnés à des gendarmes sachant lire et écrire, ayant six mois au moins de service dans la gendarmerie et proposés pour l'avancement, ou à des sous-officiers de la milice proposés par les Commandants de bataillons de milice, après constatation de leur aptitude.

La totalité des emplois de Maréchal des Logis à pied et à cheval est donnée à des brigadiers de gendarmerie ayant six mois au moins de service dans leur grade et proposés pour l'avancement.

Art. 7. Les Tableaux d'avancement pour les gendarmes et les brigadiers sont établis, pour chaque compagnie, par le Commandant de la compagnie et approuvés par le Préfet, et, pour la gendarmerie mobile, par l'officier commandant. Ces Tableaux sont soumis à l'examen du Conseil d'Administration du corps de la gendarmerie qui établit le Tableau de classement.

Ce Tableau sert de base aux nominations qui sont faites par le Commandant supérieur. Celui-ci conserve toutefois le droit de porter d'office au Tableau l'avance-

ment et même de nommer immédiatement tout gendarme ou brigadier signalé par des services exceptionnels, s'il remplit d'ailleurs les conditions réglementaires d'ancienneté.

Art. 8. L'avancement à tous les grades et emplois d'officiers subalternes est dévolu, par moitié, aux militaires du corps de gendarmerie proposés pour l'avancement, et, par moitié, aux officiers de la milice qui sollicitent leur admission dans la gendarmerie.

A défaut d'un nombre suffisant de candidats de la milice aptes à remplir ces emplois, un quart en sus des vacances est dévolu aux membres du corps et un quart aux anciens militaires indigènes ou étrangers, après constatation de leur aptitude.

Art. 9. Les candidats aux grades de sous-lieutenant, de lieutenant, et de capitaine sont proposés, pour chaque compagnie, par les Commandants de compagnie avec l'approbation des Préfets. Ces états de proposition sont soumis à l'examen d'une Commission composée du Commandant supérieur, Président, de l'officier supérieur, et d'un autre officier supérieur ou capitaine; cette Commission établit le Tableau de classement qui est ensuite transmis au Gouverneur-Général.

Les demandes des officiers de la milice et des candidats indigènes ou étrangers qui sollicitent leur admission dans la gendarmerie sont soumises à l'examen de la même Commission qui en fait l'objet d'un Tableau de classement particulier.

Le Gouverneur-Général conserve le droit de porter d'office à l'un ou l'autre de ces Tableaux de nommer hors tour tout candidat ayant fait ses preuves d'aptitude et offrant des garanties exceptionnelles de capacité.

En principe, nul ne peut être promu sous-lieutenant s'il n'a rempli pendant deux ans au moins les fonctions de sous-officier; nul ne peut être promu lieutenant s'il n'a servi deux ans au moins comme sous-lieutenant; nul ne peut être promu capitaine s'il n'a servi trois ans au moins comme lieutenant.

Ces conditions de temps peuvent être réduites de moitié pour action d'éclat constatée par la mise à l'ordre du jour du corps.

Art. 10. Des récompenses de diverses natures peuvent être accordées aux membres du corps de la gendarmerie qui se sont distingués par des services exceptionnels.

Les récompenses provinciales sont:

La gratification; la mise à l'ordre du jour, avec ou sans gratification; la délivrance de dragonnes ou de sabres d'honneur.

Elles sont accordées par le Gouverneur-Général sur la proposition du Conseil Privé.

III.—*Devoirs de la Gendarmerie envers les Autorités.*

Première Section.—Devoirs de la Gendarmerie envers les Administrateurs-Généraux.

Attributions du Commandant de la Milice et de la Gendarmerie.

Art. 11. Le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie a dans ses attributions l'organisation et l'exécution réglementaire des diverses parties du service; l'avancement, les changements de résidence, les admissions à la retraite, les récompenses, les révocations et les suspensions; l'instruction militaire, la discipline, la tenue, l'armement, la solde, l'habillement, l'équipement, la remonte; les revues, les inspections, l'administration intérieure, la vérification de la comptabilité, &c.

Il lui est transmis copie des Rapports périodiques adressés aux autorités civiles et rendu compte de tous les événements qui intéressent la sécurité publique. Les Rapports lui sont adressés par les Commandants de compagnies et, dans les cas urgents, par les Commandants de sections.

Art. 12. Les événements qui donnent lieu à ces communications sont: les vols avec effraction commis par des malfaiteurs au nombre de plus de deux; les incendies, les assassinats, et les inondations; les attaques de voitures publiques, de courriers, de convois de deniers publics, et de munitions; l'enlèvement ou le pillage de Caisses publiques ou de magasins militaires; les arrestations d'espions; les provocations à la révolte, les attroupements séditieux, les émeutes; les arrestations de faux-monnayeurs; les attaques dirigées contre la force armée; l'apparition de bandes armées; la découverte de dépôts d'armes, de munitions, de placards et de listes ayant un but séditieux; l'envahissement des stations télégraphiques, des gares, ou la destruction des lignes; et, généralement, tous les événements qui exigent des mesures promptes et décisives pour prévenir le désordre ou pour le réprimer.

Attributions du Secrétaire-Général, Directeur de l'Intérieur.

Art. 13. Les mesures prescrites pour assurer la tranquillité du pays, pour le maintien de l'ordre, et pour l'exécution des lois et des règlements de police et d'administration, émanent du Secrétaire-Général, Directeur de l'Intérieur.

Il lui appartient de donner des ordres pour la police générale et pour la sûreté de la province.

Il lui est rendu compte périodiquement du service habituel de la gendarmerie.

Art. 14. A cet effet, les Commandants de compagnies adressent, du 5 au 10 de chaque mois, au Directeur de l'Intérieur:

1. Un état de situation de la compagnie, avec indication des hommes et des chevaux disponibles;

2. Un état récapitulatif du service exécuté dans le département pendant le mois précédent, donnant le relevé sommaire des arrestations civiles et militaires opérées pendant le mois, des escortes fournies et enfin de tous les événements qui, par leur nature, peuvent influer sur la tranquillité publique;

3. Un état nominatif des individus arrêtés pendant le mois, avec indication des motifs de leur arrestation et du lieu où ils ont été conduits;

4. Un Rapport sur la surveillance exercée vis-à-vis des repris de justice, des mendiants, des vagabonds, des condamnés libérés, des individus placés sous la surveillance de la police, &c.

Art. 15. Indépendamment de ces communications périodiques, il est donné immédiatement et directement connaissance au Directeur de l'Intérieur de tous les événements susceptibles de troubler la paix publique et dont le détail est indiqué à l'Article 12.

Art. 16. Les moyens de casernement des brigades de la gendarmerie départementale étant fournis par l'autorité administrative, de concert avec les départements, le Directeur de l'Intérieur exerce un contrôle supérieur sur les dispositions relatives à l'installation des locaux affectés à ce service.

Attributions du Directeur de la Justice.

Art. 17. Le Directeur de la Justice a dans ses attributions la direction des poursuites judiciaires, des enquêtes et des recherches, la mise à exécution des jugements et, d'une manière générale, toutes les mesures ayant pour but d'assurer l'exécution intégrale des lois.

A cet effet, il lui est adressé, du 5 au 10 de chaque mois, par les Commandants de compagnies, un Rapport détaillé faisant connaître les opérations de cette nature exécutées pendant le mois précédent, et, à la fin de chaque année, un Tableau sommaire du service judiciaire fait par les membres du corps de la gendarmerie pendant l'année écoulée.

Deuxième Section.—Rapports de la Gendarmerie avec les Autorités Locales.

Art. 18. L'action des autorités civiles, administratives et judiciaires, sur la gendarmerie, en ce qui concerne son emploi, s'exerce par réquisition dans les conditions stipulées au Chapitre XI, Article 4.

Les cas où la gendarmerie peut être requise sont tous ceux prévus par la loi et les règlements ou spécifiés par les ordres particuliers du service. Les réquisitions écrites devront énoncer, en conséquence, la loi qui les autorise, le motif, l'ordre, le jugement ou l'acte administratif en vertu duquel elles sont faites.

Art. 19. La gendarmerie doit communiquer immédiatement aux autorités civiles les renseignements qu'elle reçoit et qui intéressent l'ordre public.

Art. 20. Les Présidents de Tribunaux, les membres du parquet, les Juges de Canton, les Préfets et baillis peuvent appeler auprès d'eux, par avis écrit, les officiers de gendarmerie commandant dans l'étendue de leur ressort. Dans les cas urgents, les officiers et Commandants de détachement de gendarmerie doivent, sans être appelés, se rendre chez les autorités aussi fréquemment que la gravité des circonstances l'exige.

Art. 21. Les Commandants de compagnies adressent chaque jour au Préfet de leur département un Rapport sur tous les événements qui peuvent intéresser l'ordre public; ils lui fournissent tous les renseignements contenus dans les Rapports des sections et brigades lorsqu'ils peuvent donner lieu à des mesures de précaution ou de répression.

De semblables Rapports sont journellement adressés aux baillis par les Commandants de sections.

Les Commandants de sections et de compagnies adressent en outre, tous les jours, aux baillis et aux Préfets, un Tableau sommaire des délits commis et des arrestations faites dans le ressort de la section ou de la compagnie.

Art. 22. Lorsque la tranquillité publique est menacée, les officiers et Commandants de détachements de la gendarmerie ne sont point appelés à discuter l'opportunité des mesures prescrites par les Préfets et baillis, mais il est de leur devoir de désigner les points que ne peuvent être dégarnis sans danger et de soumettre à ces fonctionnaires les propositions qui leur paraissent les plus conformes au bien du service.

Par contre, lorsque les autorités administratives ont formulé leurs réquisitions, elles ne peuvent s'immiscer dans la conduite des opérations ordonnées en exécution de ces réquisitions et dont les officiers et Commandants de détachements de la gendarmerie sont seuls responsables.

Art. 23. Dans aucun cas, les membres du corps de la gendarmerie ne doivent recevoir de missions occultes; leur action s'exerce en tenue militaire et au grand jour.

Art. 24. Les officiers de gendarmerie, dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions, ne sont pas subordonnés aux Commandants militaires des districts; ils sont tenus seulement à avoir vis-a-vis d'eux la déférence due à la supériorité éventuelle de leur rang hiérarchique.

Art. 25. Dans le cas d'une action commune de la gendarmerie et de la milice en vue de rétablir l'ordre, le Chef du détachement mobile de la milice garde le commandement de sa troupe, mais il est obligé de se conformer aux réquisitions qui lui sont faites par l'officier de gendarmerie, lequel demeure responsable de l'exécution de son mandat si l'officier auxiliaire se conforme à sa réquisition.

Art. 26. En règle générale, les autorités civiles, tout en disposant de la gendarmerie pour assurer l'exécution des lois et règlements, doivent traiter les Chefs de cette force publique avec les égards que mérite leur rang militaire.

De leur côté, les militaires de tous grades de la gendarmerie doivent demeurer dans la ligne de leurs devoirs envers les dites autorités, en observant constamment avec elles la déférence qui leur est due.

Art. 27. Les officiers, sous-officiers, et brigadiers de gendarmerie ont droit aux honneurs et préséances appartenant aux militaires de leur grade dans la milice.

IV.—*Fonctions Inhérentes à chaque Grade.*

Art. 28. Le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie dirige et surveille l'ensemble du service, de l'administration, et de la comptabilité des compagnies. Il ne s'occupe point des détails du service qui sont réglés par le Commandant de chaque compagnie; il se borne, sauf le cas de négligence et d'inexactitudes signalées, à réviser, par des circulaires générales et des ordres du jour, la marche à suivre pour l'exécution des lois, décrets, règlements, instructions, et décisions.

Art. 29. Le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie inspecte annuellement une partie des compagnies et des sections sous ses ordres. Ses inspections sont d'ordinaire inopinées. Il peut, s'il le juge convenable et après entente avec les Préfets, réunir sur un point donné une partie des gendarmes d'une compagnie pour les passer en revue et s'assurer de leur degré d'instruction militaire.

Art. 30. Le service normal des inspections est confié à l'Officier Supérieur Inspecteur.

L'itinéraire, la durée et l'étendue de l'inspection sont fixés après entente entre le Directeur de l'Intérieur et le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Art. 31. L'Inspecteur se met en rapport avec les autorités civiles; il s'informe si le service se fait avec exactitude, si les militaires de tout grade de la gendarmerie font preuve de zèle et de dévouement, et s'ils tiennent une conduite exempte de reproches.

Il fait, avec le plus grand soin, l'inspection des hommes, s'assure s'ils connaissent les devoirs de leur état et s'ils sont capables de les remplir.

Il examine soigneusement les chevaux et donne des ordres pour le remplacement des animaux hors de service.

Il vérifie en détail l'état de l'armement, de l'équipement, de l'habillement, et du harnachement.

Il profite de son passage pour recommander aux hommes le zèle et l'esprit de justice et d'abnégation qui sont l'essence de leur service; il félicite publiquement les

bons serviteurs et adresse un blâme public à ceux qui remplissent imparfaitement leurs devoirs.

L'inspecteur examine l'état du casernement dont il fait l'objet d'un Rapport spécial.

Il vérifie la comptabilité des sections et compagnies et s'assure que les deniers et matières sont gérés avec exactitude et probité. Il prend connaissance des registres du personnel tenus dans chaque compagnie par le Commandant de compagnie et s'assure que les archives sont conservées en bon ordre.

Il adresse au Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie des rapports généraux d'inspection sur chacune des compagnies inspectées.

Art. 32. Les Commandants des compagnies de gendarmerie sont spécialement chargés de la direction et des détails du service dont ils surveillent l'exécution; ils entretiennent, à cet effet, des relations directes et habituelles avec les autorités civiles de leur ressort et rendent compte, tous les dix jours et plus souvent s'il est nécessaire, au Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, par un Rapport général, de tous les faits portés à leur connaissance par les Commandants de sections.

Ils sont responsables de la police, de la discipline, de la tenue, et de l'instruction de leur compagnie.

Art. 33. Les Commandants de compagnie passent annuellement la revue de toutes les brigades sous leurs ordres. Avant de se mettre en route, ils en informent le Préfet de leur département et le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie. Ils sont, pendant la durée de leur absence, suppléés dans le commandement de la section du chef-lieu par le plus ancien sous-officier de la section. Ils peuvent, si le préfet en fait la demande, être suppléés par le plus ancien officier de section de la compagnie dans le service spécial de Commissaire Central de Police.

Les Commandants de compagnies rendent compte, dans un Rapport spécial, au Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, des notes et observations recueillies dans chacune de leurs tournées. Ils lui adressent, en outre, semestriellement, après les avoir soumis à l'approbation de leurs Préfets respectifs, des états de proposition pour l'avancement des officiers, sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes sous leurs ordres.

Art. 34. Les Commandants de compagnies tiennent à jour:—

1. Un registre des ordres du jour et circulaires concernant le service de la gendarmerie;
2. Un registre d'analyse des lettres et ordres émanant de l'autorité supérieure;
3. Un registre de correspondance:
4. Un registre de punitions;
5. Un registre du personnel des officiers, sous-officiers, brigadiers et gendarmes;
6. Un registre des rapports et renseignements qu'ils reçoivent sur des objets pouvant intéresser l'ordre public;
7. Un registre des déserteurs et insoumis dont la recherche est ordonnée par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie;
8. Un registre des individus en surveillance dans le département.

Les Commandants de compagnies tiennent en outre, au titre de la section dont ils ont le commandement, les registres de section dont le détail est donné à l'Article 36 ci-après.

Le détail des registres relatifs à l'administration des compagnies est donné au titre de l'administration ci-après.

Les lettres, rapports, et ordres de service sont classés avec un numéro d'ordre.

Lorsqu'un Capitaine quitte le commandement d'une compagnie, ces pièces, registres, et documents sont remis, sur inventaire, à celui qui le remplace.

Les Commandants de compagnie sont autorisés à employer comme secrétaire un brigadier de gendarmerie détaché a cet effet d'une brigade où se trouve un sous-officier ou un autre brigadier. Ils ne doivent, dans aucun cas, l'employer à la tenue du registre du personnel, ni permettre qu'il en prenne connaissance.

En cas de départ du Commandant de compagnie, le registre est cacheté et déposé aux archives jusqu'au retour du titulaire ou jusqu'à l'arrivée de son successeur.

Art. 35. Les officiers de gendarmerie Commandants de section ont la surveillance de tout le service habituel des brigades; ils entretiennent une correspondance suivie avec le Commandant de compagnie auquel ils rendent compte, par un rapport journalier, de tous les faits portés à leur connaissance par la correspondance des brigades.

Si, dans l'étendue de leur commandement, il survient quelque événement extraordinaire de nature à influer d'une manière quelconque sur la paix publique, ils

doivent, après entente avec le bailli de leur canton, se transporter aussitôt que possible sur les lieux et en rendre compte au Commandant de la compagnie. Si cet événement nécessite de promptes mesures, ils l'informent des dispositions qu'ils ont cru devoir prendre en attendant ses ordres.

Art. 36. Les Commandants de section font annuellement quatre tournées pour la revue de leurs brigades, autant que possible à raison d'une tournée par trimestre. Ils obtenir doivent, avant de s'absenter, prendre les ordres du Commandant de compagnie et l'agrément du bailli.

Ces inspections portent sur tous les détails du service, de la tenue, de l'habillement, de la discipline, du casernement; ils s'assurent de l'état d'entretien des chevaux et veillent à ce qu'ils soient convenablement soignés et nourris. Ils vérifient le registre tenu par chaque Commandant de brigade et y apposent leur visa.

Les tournées des Commandants de section ne peuvent être un prétexte pour interrompre ou retarder l'exécution du service dans les brigades.

Dans les cinq jours qui suivent la fin de la tournée, les Commandants de section adressent au Commandant de la compagnie un Rapport détaillé d'inspection.

En dehors des tournées réglementaires, les Commandants de section font, quand ils le jugent utile, des inspections inopinées de brigades.

Art. 37. Les Commandants de section sont tenus d'être pourvus des registres ci-après :

1. Registre des ordres du jour et circulaires de la compagnie;
2. Registre de correspondance et rapports;
3. Registre analytique des procès-verbaux dressés dans la section;
4. Registre des mandats de justice;
5. Registre des déserteurs et insoumis;
6. Registre des individus en surveillance;
7. Registre des punitions;
8. Contrôle du personnel et des chevaux de la section.

Ils transmettent aux Commandants de compagnie, du 1er au 5 de chaque mois, un Rapport général sur le service effectué dans la brigade et un état de situation détaillé, ainsi que la totalité des feuilles de service des brigades dont il est fait mention à l'Article 44 ci-après.

Les lettres, ordres, rapports, et minutes sont classés avec un numero d'ordre.

Lorsqu'un officier quitte le Commandement d'une section, ces pièces, registres, et documents, sont remis sur inventaire à celui qui le remplace.

Art. 38. Les officiers de la gendarmerie sont astreints à porter l'uniforme.

Il leur est expressément défendu, lors de leurs tournées, d'accepter ni logement ni repas chez leurs inférieurs.

Art. 39. Le premier soin d'un Commandant de brigade doit être de donner à ses subordonnés l'exemple du zèle, de l'activité, de l'ordre, et de la subordination; il doit exercer son autorité envers ses inférieurs avec fermeté mais sans montrer ni hauteur ni familiarité.

Il est personnellement responsable de tout ce qui est relatif au service, à la tenue, à la police, et au bon ordre de la brigade.

Il règle journellement le service dans les brigades détachées et prend les ordres de l'officier commandant dans les centres de section ou de compagnie.

Art. 40. Les Commandants de brigade rendent compte, par un Rapport journalier adressé à leur Chef direct, de tous les événements parvenus à leur connaissance dans les vingt-quatre heures; dans les cas urgents, ils peuvent directement correspondre avec le Commandant de la compagnie. Ils envoient toujours à leur Chef direct copie de leurs lettres et Rapports.

Si le Commandant de brigade est assisté d'un brigadier adjoint, celui-ci est plus spécialement chargé de la correspondance, sous la direction du Commandant de la brigade.

Art. 41. Les Commandants de brigade ont la responsabilité de la tenue de la caserne et des chambres, de celle des écuries et du bon entretien des chevaux; ils s'assurent en particulier que les chevaux sont nourris convenablement et ne sont pas employés à un autre service que celui de la gendarmerie.

Art. 42. Les tournées de surveillance, conduites et escortes, sont toujours faites, autant que possible, par deux hommes au moins; les gendarmes commandés pour un service ne doivent jamais se mettre en route sans que le Commandant de la brigade ait passé l'inspection des hommes, des chevaux, et des armes.

Art. 43. Le Commandant de brigade prépare et régularise les pièces pour le transfèrement des prisonniers et l'exécution des mandats de justice, des réquisitions, et des

ordres de conduite. Il dirige la rédaction des procès-verbaux et les écrit lui-même si le gendarme est illettré; dans ce cas, il signe la pièce avec celui-ci comme certification de la validité de sa signature.

Il donne connaissance aux gendarmes des ordres du jour et du signalement des individus à rechercher; il fixe l'itinéraire des tournées, courses et patrouilles, et prend, en un mot, toutes les dispositions nécessaires pour la bonne et prompte exécution du service.

Art. 44. Les Commandants de brigade sont chargés de tenir constamment à jour le Registre de Service qui sert à constater les opérations de la brigade.

Ce registre est divisé en onze Chapitres comme il suit :

1. Ordres du jour et circulaires;
2. Rapports et correspondance;
3. Inscription des mandats de justice;
4. Procès-verbaux;
5. Déserteurs signalés;
6. Individus en surveillance;
7. Transfèrement de prisonniers;
8. Carnets de correspondance;
9. Contrôle des gardes ruraux;
10. Punitions;
11. Contrôle des miliciens en congé.

Indépendamment de ce registre, les Commandants de brigade résument, journellement, dans une feuille de service établie en double expédition, toutes les opérations faites par la brigade. Ces feuilles de service sont adressées, du 1er au 5 de chaque mois, au Commandant de section, pour le mois écoulé; les doubles de ces feuilles restent aux archives de la brigade.

Art. 45. En cas d'absence ou de maladie d'un Commandant de brigade, le commandement appartient au brigadier adjoint, dans les brigades où il s'en trouve ou au gendarme de 1re classe le plus ancien; si ce gendarme est illettré, le Commandant de la compagnie charge de ce service un brigadier adjoint détaché de sa brigade à cet effet. Les registres sont remis, sur inventaire, au nouveau Commandant de brigade ou à l'intérimaire désigné.

V.—*Service Spécial de la Gendarmerie.*

Art. 46. Le service de la gendarmerie dans les départements se divise en service ordinaire et service extraordinaire.

Le service ordinaire est celui qui s'opère journellement ou à des époques périodiques sans qu'il soit besoin d'aucune réquisition de la part des autorités administratives et judiciaires.

Le service extraordinaire est celui qui n'a lieu qu'en vertu d'ordres ou de réquisitions.

En ce qui concerne la gendarmerie mobile, le service ordinaire est celui de police urbaine au chef-lieu de la province; le service extraordinaire est celui qui lui est confié lorsqu'un détachement est dirigé, par ordre exprès du Gouverneur-Général, sur un point quelconque de la province.

Première Section.—Service Ordinaire.

Art. 47. Les fonctions habituelles et ordinaires des brigades sont de faire des tournées, courses, ou patrouilles sur les routes et chemins, dans les communes, hameaux, fermes et bois, enfin, dans tous les lieux de leur circonscription respective.

Chaque commune doit être visitée au moins deux fois par mois. Les gendarmes s'informent près des Maires et Adjoints, des habitants et des voyageurs, des crimes et délits commis. Ils provoquent et reçoivent les déclarations des témoins et se mettent à la recherche des malfaiteurs signalés. Ils arrêtent et interrogent les vagabonds et examinent les passeports.

En cas d'arrestation, ils en dressent le procès-verbal aussitôt que possible, en demandant aux témoins de signer avec eux.

Art. 48. En cas d'incendie, d'inondation, et d'autres événements de ce genre, ils se rendent sur les lieux au premier avis qui leur est donné; ils ordonnent, en l'absence des autorités, les mesures d'urgence, dirigent le sauvetage, requièrent s'il est nécessaire

le concours personnel des habitants, des moyens de transport, etc., et s'attachent à donner eux-mêmes l'exemple du calme, du zèle, et de l'abnégation.

En même temps, ils se renseignent aussitôt que possible sur les causes du sinistre et en dressent procès-verbal. Si les déclarations inculpent quelque individu, ils le recherchent, l'interrogent, et, en cas de légitime suspicion, l'arrêtent immédiatement et le conduisent devant l'officier de police judiciaire du lieu.

Art. 49. Dans ses tournées, correspondances, patrouilles, et service habituel à la résidence, la gendarmerie exerce une surveillance active et persévérante sur les repris de justice, les condamnés libérés, et tous les individus signalés; elle rend compte immédiatement de leur disparition, envoie leur signalement, et se met à leur recherche.

Elle exige avec fermeté l'exécution des lois et ordonnances de police, en observant un calme et une politesse qui n'autorise aucune insulte.

Art. 50. Pour faire la recherche des personnes signalées ou dont l'arrestation a été légalement ordonnée, les sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes visitent, à toute heure, les auberges, cabarets, et autres maisons ouvertes au public.

Par contre, ils ne peuvent pénétrer dans une maison privée :—

Le jour, qu'en vertu d'un mandat spécial de perquisition ou pour un motif formellement exprimé par une loi;

La nuit, que dans les cas d'incendie, d'inondation ou d'appel venant de l'intérieur de la maison.

S'il y a lieu de supposer qu'un individu prévenu de crime ou délit, ou déjà frappé d'un mandat d'arrestation, soit réfugié dans la maison d'un particulier, la gendarmerie se borne à garder à vu la maison ou à l'entourer, en attendant l'arrivée de l'autorité qui a le droit d'exiger l'ouverture de la maison. Ce droit appartient d'ailleurs à ceux des membres de la gendarmerie qui sont investis des fonctions de Commissaire de police.

Art. 51. Les sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes ne peuvent, en l'absence de l'autorité administrative ou judiciaire, employer la force des armes qu'en cas de violences ou des voies de fait exercées contre eux, ou s'ils ne peuvent défendre autrement les personnes ou les positions dont la garde leur est confiée.

Dans aucun cas, ils ne doivent se dessaisir de leur prisonnier, ni quitter le terrain avant que l'ordre soit parfaitement rétabli.

Art. 52. La gendarmerie dissipe tous les rassemblements armés ou non armés et réprime les émeutes et mouvements populaires dirigés contre la sûreté des personnes, contre les autorités, contre la liberté de l'industrie et du commerce, et contre le libre exercice des cultes reconnus par la loi: elle saisit les perturbateurs, ainsi que ceux qui sont trouvés exerçant des voies de fait ou des violences contre les personnes.

Art. 53. Un des principaux devoirs de la gendarmerie étant de faire la police des routes et chemins et d'y maintenir la liberté des communications, elle doit empêcher les anticipations, les dépôts de fumier ou d'autres objets encombrants, constater les dégradations commises sur les routes et sur les arbres qui les bordent sur les fossés, ouvrages d'art et matériaux d'entretien et dénoncer à l'autorité compétente les auteurs de ces délits ou contraventions. Elle s'oppose aux encombrements de voitures, rétablit la libre circulation, en procédant, au besoin, contre les réfractaires, et fait exécuter les ordonnances et règlements de police vicinale.

Art. 54. La gendarmerie est chargée de protéger l'agriculture et de saisir tout individu commettant des dégâts dans les champs et les bois, dégradant les haies, murs ou fossés, et tous ceux qui sont surpris commettant des larcins de fruits ou autres productions.

Art. 55. La gendarmerie porte la plus grande attention à tout ce qui intéresse la salubrité publique; à ce titre :

1. Elle surveille les halles et marchés afin d'empêcher la vente de denrées et de combustibles gâtés ou corrompus;

2. Elle fait brûler le foin ou la paille ayant pu servir de moyen de couchage à des personnes ou à des animaux malades d'affections contagieuses;

3. Elle fait enterrer les animaux morts et empêche de dépouiller de leur peau ceux qui sont morts de maladies contagieuses;

4. Elle surveille les cimetières, signale à l'autorité ceux qui ne seraient pas situés hors des limites des villes et villages; et exige que les inhumations soient faites à une profondeur d'au moins deux archines.

Art. 56. La gendarmerie doit toujours se tenir à portée des grands rassemblements d'hommes, tels que foires, marchés, fêtes et cérémonies publiques, pour y maintenir le

bon ordre et la sécurité; elle fait, la nuit, des rondes et patrouilles pour assurer la sûreté des voies de communication et protéger tous les individus que leur commerce, leur industrie, ou leurs affaires obligent à voyager.

Art. 57. Il est spécialement prescrit à toutes les brigades de rechercher et d'arrêter les hommes de la milice signalés comme déserteurs ou insoumis.

La gendarmerie s'assure également que tous les miliciens en permission ou en congé sont munis d'un titre de permission ou de congé et les fait rejoindre leur corps en temps utile. A cet effet, tout milicien du cadre permanent, porteur d'un congé, doit présenter ce titre de congé au Commandant de la brigade de gendarmerie qui le vise et qui inscrit son nom sur le Registre de Service indiqué à l'Article 41 ci-dessus.

Art. 58. Lors de l'appel des hommes de la milice pour les exercices bi-mensuels d'instruction, pour les manœuvres annuelles, ou pour toutes les circonstances de mobilisation totale ou partielle, la gendarmerie doit assurer l'affichage des ordres généraux, faire la transmission des ordres individuels, en réclamant s'il est nécessaire le concours des agents de la police rurale, et veiller à ce que tous les hommes appelés rejoignent sans retard, avec leurs papiers, le lieu de rassemblement désigné.

Art. 59. L'une des fonctions habituelles des brigades de gendarmerie est de correspondre entre elles sur des points déterminés par les Commandants de section et de compagnie. Les points de correspondance sont réglés de façon que la distance à parcourir soit à peu près égale des deux parts. Les gendarmes font l'échange des lettres et Rapports ou des individus confiés à leur garde, ainsi que des renseignements verbaux qu'ils ont pu recueillir sur tous les objets qui intéressent la tranquillité publique.

Art. 60. Les ordres relatifs au transfert des prisonniers de brigade en brigade sont toujours donnés par les Commandants de section ou de compagnie. Les ordres sont écrits et individuels pour chaque prisonnier transféré.

Art. 61. Il est organisé, dans chaque siége de brigade, à défaut de maison d'arrêt ou de détention, un local de réclusion provisoire composé de deux chambres au moins, de façon à pouvoir toujours séparer les prisonniers de sexes différents.

Les aliments sont fournis à ces prisonniers par les soins et aux frais des municipalités.

Si ces locaux de réclusion sont situés en dehors de la caserne de gendarmerie, l'Administration Municipale en conserve la police, l'organisation, et l'entretien. Le Commandant de la brigade de gendarmerie doit toutefois pourvoir à la sûreté de ce local et veiller à ce que les mesures d'hygiène et de propreté y soient rigoureusement prises.

A défaut de moyens de surveillance suffisants, la gendarmerie peut, dans les cas exceptionnels, requérir des municipalités le concours d'une garde provisoire fournie par les habitants et en prend de droit le commandement.

Art. 62. Les prisonniers transférés de brigade en brigade sont déposés, à l'arrivée au gîte, dans les locaux de réclusion indiqués à l'Article ci-dessus.

Dans les cas urgents ou lorsque l'intéressé déclare prendre à sa charge les frais de conduite et d'escorte, les individus arrêtés sont dirigés par les voies rapides sur le lieu de leur destination si toutefois le déplacement des gendarmes chargés de l'escorte ne doit pas nuire au bien du service ordinaire de la brigade.

Les gendarmes chargés de la conduite de prisonniers empêchent qu'ils ne fassent usage de liqueurs fortes; ils doivent faire preuve de vigilance et de fermeté pour prévenir les évasions, tout en évitant les rigueurs inutiles et les actes de brutalité qui sont sévèrement interdits.

Art. 63. L'emploi de chaînes ou de cordes n'est autorisé que dans de cas exceptionnels et seulement lorsque la force physique du prisonnier, son caractère, ou ses antécédents donnent lieu de craindre une tentative de révolte ou d'évasion, ou quand le nombre des prisonniers dépasse notablement celui des gendarmes chargés de la conduite. Dans aucun cas, les moyens d'attache ne doivent être de nature à blesser par eux-mêmes les prisonniers.

Art. 64. Les sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes veillent à la subsistance des prisonniers et requièrent des municipalités les vivres nécessaires à ces derniers.

Si les prisonniers sont malades, ils leur donnent ou font donner les soins médicaux nécessaires, et, en cas d'urgence, les consignent à l'hôpital civil le plus proche.

Art. 65. D'une manière générale, les membres de la gendarmerie doivent comprendre leur mission comme ayant pour but exclusif de protéger les bons citoyens, et non d'être à charge aux populations en leur imposant d'inutiles vexations. Le

devoir de tout Chef est de s'attacher à développer cette idée propre à faciliter la tâche délicate et souvent pénible imposée à la gendarmerie.

Deuxième Section.—Service Extraordinaire.

Art. 66. Le service extraordinaire des brigades consiste à prêter main forte :—

1. Aux agents des différentes Administrations Financières dans les cas où leur autorité est publiquement violée et leur impuissance évidente, et où un retard d'action peut porter gravement atteinte au intérêts du Trésor.

2. Aux agents chargés de l'exécution de mandats et jugements de justice.

3. Aux agents préposés à la surveillance des chemins de fer.

Art. 67. La gendarmerie fournit les escortes légalement demandées pour la conduite des fonds publics, des munitions de guerre, et des courriers intéressant la sûreté de la province. Les réquisitions relatives à ce service sont toujours faites par écrit et adressées au Chef supérieur du détachement de gendarmerie du lieu.

La gendarmerie peut, en ce cas, lorsque ses moyens sont insuffisants, requérir le concours d'une garde locale qui est placée sous ses ordres directs.

Le Chef de l'escorte prend toutes les dispositions de prudence et de sûreté que commande la situation, et demeure responsable des accidents survenus s'il ressort de l'examen des faits qu'il ait manqué de l'énergie ou de la surveillance nécessaires.

Art. 68. Quelle que puisse être la nature du service ordinaire ou extraordinaire qui lui est commandé, aucun gendarme ne peut, sans un ordre spécial, franchir la frontière de la Province de Roumélie.

VI.—*Ordre Intérieur.—Police et Discipline.*

Art. 69. Les membres du corps de la gendarmerie, quel que soit leur grade, ne peuvent se marier sans autorisation. L'autorisation est donnée, pour les officiers, par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie ; pour les sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes, par les Commandants de section.

Les hommes de troupe de la gendarmerie mobile ne sont autorisés à se marier qu'à la condition de passer dans la gendarmerie départementale.

Art. 70. Les sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes sont, autant que possible, logés dans les casernes ou dans les maisons qui en tiennent lieu. Les casernes sont bâties ou les maisons sont louées aux frais des départements.

Un gendarme doit toujours être de service à la caserne ; ce service est de vingt-quatre heures.

Lors même que les sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes ne sont pas casernés il leur est défendu, ainsi qu'à leurs femmes, de faire commerce, de tenir auberge ou cabaret, ni d'exercer aucun métier ou aucune profession manuelle.

Art. 71. Il est défendu à tout membre du corps de la gendarmerie, sous peine d'exclusion du service et sans préjudice des peines prévues par le Code Pénal, d'accepter des cadeaux ou de l'argent de qui que ce soit.

Les uns et les autres ne peuvent entrer dans les cabarets et débits de boissons que pour affaires de service ; ils doivent toujours s'y conduire avec prudence et dignité.

Art. 72. Sont réputées fautes contre la discipline,

De la part des supérieurs :—

Tout propos injurieux ou humiliant envers son subordonné, toute punition injustement infligée et tout abus d'autorité à son égard ; toute négligence à punir les fautes de leurs inférieurs et à rendre compte à leurs Chefs.

De la part des inférieurs :—

Tout défaut d'obéissance, tout murmure, mauvais propos ou signe de mécontentement envers un supérieur ; tout manquement au respect ; toute violation de punition disciplinaire ; toute marque de conduite irrégulière, dettes, jeu, querelles, ivrognerie, liaisons illégitimes, &c., enfin, tout ce qui, dans la conduite ou dans la vie habituelle, s'écarte de la règle, de l'ordre, ou de l'esprit d'obéissance et de déférence que le subordonné doit à ses Chefs.

Art. 73. Les officiers, sous-officiers, brigadiers et gendarmes ne peuvent être punis que par leurs Chefs hiérarchiques, dans les limites indiquées aux Articles ci-après.

Toutes les fois qu'un fonctionnaire de l'ordre administratif ou judiciaire croit avoir à se plaindre d'un membre du corps de la gendarmerie, il adresse sa plainte au Chef du détachement, qui inflige une punition proportionnée à la gravité de la faute.

Les officiers et sous-officiers de la milice en service pourront, de même, adresser des plaintes contre les membres du corps de la gendarmerie, en les faisant toujours passer par la voie hiérarchique.

Art. 74. Les peines disciplinaires sont, pour les officiers :—

Les arrêts simples ; la réprimande publique ; les arrêts de rigueur ; la prison.

Les arrêts simples sont gardés au domicile ordinaire de l'officier ; ils n'exemptent d'aucun service.

La réprimande a lieu en présence de plusieurs officiers d'un grade égal ou supérieur réunis à cet effet.

Les arrêts de rigueur sont gardés au domicile ordinaire de l'officier auquel on retire son sabre ou son épée et à la porte de qui on place une sentinelle.

La peine de prison est subie au chef-lieu de la province, dans un local spécialement affecté à cet usage.

Les arrêts simples sont infligés aux officiers par tout officier supérieur en grade ; leur durée ne peut excéder trente jours.

Les arrêts de rigueur sont infligés seulement par l'officier supérieur Inspecteur ou par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie ; leur durée ne peut excéder quinze jours.

La punition de la prison ne peut être infligée que par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie et pour une durée maxima de quinze jours.

Art. 75. Le lieutenant peut infliger quatre jours d'arrêts simples au sous-lieutenant :—

Le Capitaine, huit jours d'arrêts simples ou la réprimande aux lieutenants et sous-lieutenants ;

Le Major, huit jours d'arrêts simples aux Capitaines et quinze jours aux lieutenants et sous-lieutenants ;

L'officier supérieur inspecteur, quinze jours d'arrêts simples aux Capitaines et trente jours d'arrets simples aux lieutenants et sous-lieutenants, ou huit jours d'arrêts de rigueur aux Capitaines et quinze de la même peine aux lieutenants et sous-lieutenants.

L'officier supérieur inspecteur peut aussi infliger la réprimande à tout officier subalterne.

Le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie peut infliger le maximum de chacune des peines susénoncées aux officiers de tous grades sous ses ordres.

La punition d'arrêts de rigueur et celle de prison entraînent une réduction de la solde comme il est indiqué à l'Article 95 ci-après.

Art. 76. Tout officier, lors même qu'il se croit injustement puni, doit d'abord se soumettre à la punition disciplinaire prononcée contre lui ; mais il peut, après avoir obéi, adresser sa réclamation à l'officier immédiatement supérieur à celui qui l'a puni.

Les réclamations non justifiées peuvent donner lieu à des augmentations prononcées par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Toutes les punitions infligées aux officiers sont portées, soit au registre spécial tenu, dans les compagnies, pour les lieutenants et sous-lieutenants, soit sur un registre spécial tenu à l'Etat-Major du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, pour les Capitaines et officiers supérieurs.

Art. 77. Les punitions disciplinaires à infliger aux sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes sont :—

La consigne à la caserne ; la salle de police ; la prison.

Ces punitions ne peuvent être infligées pour plus de trente jours.

Art. 78. Les punitions sont infligées de la manière suivante :—

Par les Commandants de brigade, quatre jours de consigne, deux jours de salle de police ;

Par les Commandants de section, huit jours de consigne, quatre jours de salle de police, et deux jours de prison ;

Par les Commandants de compagnie et par les Majors, quinze jours de consigne, huit jours de salle de police, et quatre jours de prison.

L'officier supérieur inspecteur et le Commandant de la gendarmerie mobile dans ce corps, peuvent ordonner trente jours de consigne, quinze jours de salle de police, et huit jours de prison.

Le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie peut infliger le maximum de toutes les peines.

Art. 79. Si, cependant, un membre du corps commet une faute contre la discipline de nature à mériter une plus forte punition, le Commandant de la milice et de la

gendarmerie est autorisé à le retenir en prison jusqu'à ce qu'il ait été statué sur une proposition de révocation, de suspension, de cassation ou de rétrogation. Dans aucun cas, la durée de cette peine ne peut excéder deux mois.

Art. 80. Les punitions de salle de police et de prison sont toujours subies, pour les sous-officiers, brigadiers et gendarmes, au chef-lieu de la compagnie, où un local spécial est aménagé à cet usage.

Art. 81. Les suspensions, rétrogradations, ou cassations des sous-officiers, brigadiers et gendarmes de 1re classe sont prononcées, conformément aux dispositions du Chapitre XIII, Article 23, par le Gouverneur-Général ou par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Elles sont toujours mises à l'ordre du jour du corps avec indication des motifs.

Art. 82. Les propositions relatives à la résiliation des contrats des officiers étrangers admis au service de la gendarmerie, conformément aux dispositions du Chapitre XIII, Article 20, sont présentés au Gouverneur-Général par le Conseil Privé ou par la majorité des membres de ce Conseil.

Le Gouverneur-Général les soumet, avec le dossier à l'appui, au Comité Permanent de l'Assemblée Provinciale qui décide à la majorité des voix.

Art. 83. Les propositions relatives à la suspension où à la révocation des officiers indigènes sont soumises au Conseil Privé par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Les causes qui, par mesure de discipline, peuvent entraîner la suspension ou la révocation d'un officier sont :—

L'inconduite habituelle, les fautes graves dans le service ou contre la discipline ;

Les fautes contre l'honneur ;

La condamnation à un emprisonnement de plus de six mois.

Si l'officier révoqué compte plus de quinze années de services effectifs, il peut être alloué sur la proposition du Conseil Privé, une gratification de réforme proportionnelle au nombre de ses années de service, à la condition qu'il ne soit pas rendu coupable d'une faute contre l'honneur.

VII.—*Remonte.—Fourrages.*

Art. 14. Tous les officiers de gendarmerie, à l'exception des officiers chargés de l'administration dont le service est purement sédentaire, et tous les sous-officiers, brigadiers et gendarmes à cheval, doivent être constamment pourvus du nombre de chevaux fixé pour chaque grade, par le Tableau ci-après :—

	Chevaux.
Officier Supérieur Inspecteur	3
Commandant de la Gendarmerie Mobile	2
Chef de la Chancellerie	2
Commandant de compagnie	2
Commandant de section	1
Commandant de peloton de la Gendarmerie Mobile	1
Sous-officier, Brigadier, ou Gendarme à Cheval	1

Art. 85. Les officiers, sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes à cheval de la gendarmerie départementale sont tenus de se remonter à leurs frais dans les quinze jours qui suivent leur entrée en fonctions.

Les sous-officiers, brigadiers, et cavaliers de la gendarmerie mobile sont comme les autres membres du corps, remontés avec des chevaux qui leur apartiennent, mais dans les conditions spéciales indiquées à l'Article 89 ci-après.

Art. 86. Tout membre monté de la gendarmerie, à l'exception des hommes de troupe de la gendarmerie mobile, reçoit, lors de son entrée en fonctions, une indemnité représentative du prix d'achat de chacun des chevaux auxquels il a droit.

Le paiement de cette indemnité est renouvelable tous les cinq ans.

Le chiffre de l'indemnité est de £T. 20 par cheval d'officer et de £T. 10 par gendarme.

Tout membre monté du corps de la gendarmerie qui quitte le service avant l'expiration du terme de cinq années indiqué ci-dessus est tenu de rembourser au Trésor une somme proportionnelle au nombre d'années manquant et au chiffre de l'indemnité reçue. S'il n'est pas en état d'acquitter cette dette, le cheval est vendu par les soins du corps et l'excédant du prix de vente est seulement remis à l'intéressé.

Art. 87. Les chevaux d'officiers sont reçus sans contrôle autre que celui qu'exercent, lors des inspections, les Commandants de compagnie et l'officier supérieur inspecteur qui ont qualité pour obliger tout officier subalterne à remplacer une monture jugée incapable de faire son service.

Les chevaux des hommes de troupe sont reçus par une Commission composée du Commandant de compagnie, de l'officier de section, et d'un vétérinaire requis ou de l'officier de section, du vétérinaire et d'un sous-officier. Les chevaux doivent être âgés de 4 ans au moins et de 8 ans au plus, et être exempts de tares susceptibles de les mettre promptement hors de service.

L'Officier Supérieur Inspecteur prononce la réforme de ceux qui ne sont plus aptes à faire le service.

Art. 88. Si un membre monté de la gendarmerie vient à perdre son cheval avant l'expiration du délai de cinq années prévu à l'Article 86, il lui est alloué :

Si le cheval a été tué, est mort ou a été réformé par suite de blessures reçues ou de maladies contractées dans le service, une indemnité pour perte de chevaux égale aux deux tiers de l'indemnité représentative d'achat ;

Si le cheval est mort ou a été réformé par suite d'une maladie épidémique ou contagieuse ou d'une affection accidentelle autre que celles prévues à l'alinéa précédent, une indemnité égale à la moitié de l'indemnité représentative d'achat.

Dans l'un et l'autre cas, la demande adressée au Conseil d'Administration du corps pour le paiement de cette indemnité est accompagnée d'un procès-verbal de perte ou de vente, d'un certificat du vétérinaire, et d'un Rapport spécial du Commandant de section ou de compagnie dégageant la responsabilité du propriétaire du cheval.

Le prix de vente du cheval réformé est porté en déduction des indemnités prévues aux alinéas précédents.

Art. 89. Pour la remonte des hommes de troupe de la gendarmerie mobile à cheval, il est formé une Commission d'achat composée du Commandant du demi escadron, d'un officier, et d'un vétérinaire.

Le cheval est présenté à la Commission par le sous-officier, brigadier, ou gendarme intéressé ; la Commission décide de l'admission ou du rejet du cheval, sans intervenir dans la discussion du prix.

L'indemnité représentative d'achat est versée aux mains du gendarme aussitôt après la réception du cheval.

Art. 90. Il est alloué à tous les militaires montés de la gendarmerie départementale, pour chacun des chevaux auxquels ils ont droit et à défaut de rations de fourrages directement fournies par les magasins militaires, une indemité journalière de fourrages dont le chiffre est fixé comme il suit :

Chevaux d'officiers : par cheval et par jour, 3 piastres ;

Chevaux de troupe : par cheval et par jour, 2½ piastres.

Cette indemnité est payée par mois, à terme échu, et pour autant de jours que le cheval a figuré sur les contrôles de la compagnie.

S'il ressort des observations faites lors de deux revues successives, par les Chefs de section, qu'un gendarme abuse de la liberté relative qui lui est laissée pour ne pas nourrir convenablement son cheval, le Commandant de compagnie peut, en dehors de la punition disciplinaire infligée à l'homme, ordonner que le cheval en question soit temporairement nourri par les soins du Chef de la brigade qui reçoit, pendant ce temps, l'indemnité représentative de fourrages.

Art. 91. En ce qui concerne la gendarmerie mobile, les fourrages sont achetés directement par la Commission de remonte de l'escadron.

Le corps reçoit à cet effet le montant de l'indemnité représentative de fourrages pour tous les chevaux inscrits sur les contrôles. Cette indemnité est payée par quinzaine et d'avance. Les paiements aux fournisseurs sont faits par les soins de l'officier trésorier sur la présentation des bons de livraisons fournis par le corps.

S'il vient à être formé un détachement trop faible pour que le fonctionnement de ce service puisse être assuré, les hommes perçoivent directement l'indemnité dans les mêmes conditions que ceux de la gendarmerie départementale.

VIII.—*Solde.—Indemnités.—Gratifications.*

Art. 92. Le service de la solde a pour objet de pourvoir à toutes les prestations en deniers attribuées, soit individuellement aux membres de tous grades du corps de la gendarmerie, soit collectivement aux compagnies ou au corps mobile dont ils font partie.

Les prestations qui ressortissent du service de la solde sont :—

La solde ; les accessoires de solde ; les gratifications et indemnités extraordinaires.

Sauf le cas de guerre, ces prestations sont affectuées à toutes les dépenses de

subsistance, de chauffage, et d'éclairage auxquelles les membres du corps de la gendarmerie sont tenus de pourvoir eux-mêmes.

Art. 93. On distingue deux espèces principales de solde :—

La solde d'activité et la solde de non-activité.

Art. 94. Aucun militaire de la gendarmerie ne peut jouir de la solde d'activité s'il n'est en activité de service ; l'activité commence pour lui du jour où il a prêté le serment indiqué à l'Article 1 ci-dessus.

Le droit à la solde d'activité cesse :—

Pour les officiers de la gendarmerie, le lendemain du jour où ils ont reçu la notification de leur suspension, de leur révocation, de l'admission de leur démission ou de leur mise à la retraite ;

Pour les hommes de troupe, le lendemain du jour où ils ont reçu : leur congé définitif, l'avis de leur démission à la retraite où, sans autre notification, le lendemain du jour où expire leur engagement.

Art. 95. La solde d'activité, pour les militaires des différents grades qui ne sont pas liés au service par des contrats personnels et spéciaux, est fixée par le Tableau ci-après :—

Grades.	Solde Annuelle.	Solde Mensuelle.
	£ T.	£ T.
Colonel	480	40
Lieutenant-Colonel	360	30
Major	300	25
Capitaine	192	16
Lieutenant	156	13
Sous-Lieutenant	132	11
	Piastres.	Piastres.
Maréchal des logis chef	4,800	400
Maréchal des logis	4,000	350
Brigadier	3,600	300
Gendarme de—		
1re Classe	3,000	250
2e "	2,640	220

La solde des sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes à cheval est augmentée : de 2 piastres par jour pour les sous-officiers ; de 60 paras par jour pour les brigadiers ; de 40 paras par jour pour les gendarmes.

Art. 96. La solde des membres du corps, liés au service en vertu de contrats, est fixée, pour chacun d'eux, par le contrat lui-même. Ces contrats sont établis pour une durée de quatre ans au moins et six ans au plus ; leur résiliation anticipée donne droit au paiement à l'intéressé d'un dédit pécuniaire dont le chiffre, stipulé dans chaque contrat, est égal à cinq fois au moins celui de la solde annuelle fixée par le contrat.

Art. 97. La solde est payée, pour les membres de tous grades de la gendarmerie, par mois et à terme échu, à raison du nombre de journées passées en activité dans le mois.

Le mois est toujours calculé à raison de trente jours.

Art. 98. La solde est réduite à la moitié du tarif pour tout militaire de la gendarmerie qui jouit d'un congé d'une durée supérieure à trente jours, à moins qu'une décision spéciale du Gouverneur-Général ne lui accorde exceptionnellement la solde entière. La durée des congés à solde entière ne peut, sauf le cas de maladie, dépasser trois mois consécutifs.

L'indemnité représentative de fourrages continue à être payée à tout militaire de la gendarmerie en congé, pour les chevaux dont il est régulièrement pourvu.

D'une manière générale et sauf le cas de délégation prévu à l'Article 102 ci-après, la solde de congé est payée seulement au retour de l'officier, du sous-officier, du brigadier, ou du gendarme en congé.

Art. 99. Le membre de la gendarmerie qui dépasse de plus de vingt-quatre heures la durée de son congé ou de sa permission, peut, sauf le cas de force majeure, être privé de tout rappel de solde par décision du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

L'indemnité représentative de fourrages est payée mensuellement, en l'absence du membre de la gendarmerie en congé, aux mains de son fondé de pouvoirs accrédité près du Commandant de compagnie ou du Conseil d'Administration du corps.

Les officiers, sous-officiers, brigadiers et gendarmes, allant en congé, sont payés de leur solde d'activité jusqu'au jour de leur départ exclusivement ; ils recouvrent

leurs droits à la solde entière à compter du lendemain du jour où ils rentrent à leur poste.

Art. 100. La solde de tout membre du corps de la gendarmerie à l'hôpital est égale à la solde d'activité, déduction faite du prix des journées de traitement qui sont directement payées à l'hôpital par les soins des Commandants de compagnie ou du Conseil d'Administration du corps.

Art. 101. Les officiers aux arrêts de rigueur, les sous-officiers, brigadiers et gendarmes à qui il a été infligé une peine disciplinaire de prison, et tous les membres du corps en jugement ou en détention reçoivent, pendant ce temps et aux dates assignées pour le paiement de la solde d'activité, une solde égale, pour les officiers à la moitié, pour les hommes de troupe aux deux tiers de la solde d'activité.

Art. 102. Les officiers, sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes en mission, en campagne, ou en congé régulier, ont la faculté de déléguer, en faveur de leur famille ou de toute autre personne, jusqu'à concurrence du quart de la solde du grade dont ils sont pourvus au moment de leur départ.

Ils doivent, à cet effet, remettre, avant leur départ, au Commandant de la compagnie ou au Conseil d'Administration du corps, une déclaration écrite, signée par deux témoins et indiquant le chiffre de la portion déléguée, les époques de paiement et la personne ou les personnes en faveur de qui la délégation est consentie.

Les délégations ne sont valables que pour une année ; elles peuvent être renouvelées avec l'Approbation du Conseil d'Administration du corps.

Art. 103. Tout membre de la gendarmerie envoyé, par un ordre spécial, en mission extraordinaire hors des limites de son ressort, a droit :

1. A une indemnité de déplacement ;
2. A des frais de route calculés en raison de la distance parcourue.

Il peut également, par décision du Gouverneur-Général, être alloué une indemnité à tous les membres du corps employés dans une localité où les circonstances ou la réunion momentanée de nombreuses troupes rendent les conditions de la vie plus onéreuses.

Art. 104. L'indemnité de déplacement est payée à raison du nombre de jours passés en dehors des limites du ressort ordinaire de l'officier, sous-officier, brigadier, ou gendarme.

Elle est de : 30 piastres par jour pour les officiers supérieurs ; 20 piastres par jour pour les officiers subalternes ; 10 piastres par jour pour les sous-officiers et brigadiers ; 5 piastres par jour pour les sous-officiers et gendarmes.

Art. 105. Les frais de route sont alloués en raison de la distance kilométrique ; ils sont payés d'avance toutes les fois que le militaire en fait la demande.

Si le voyage se fait par les routes de terre, les frais de route sont payés :

Pour les officiers supérieurs, à raison de 3 piastres par kilomètre ; pour les officiers subalternes, à raison de 2 piastres par kilomètre ; pour les sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes, à raison d'une ½ piastre par kilomètre.

Si le voyage se fait par mer ou par chemin de fer, les frais de route sont égaux au prix du passage sur les paquebots ou chemins de fer : En première classe pour les officiers supérieurs ; deuxième classe pour les officiers subalternes ; troisième classe pour les sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes.

Art. 106. Le taux de l'indemnité de rassemblement et celui des frais de route pour les cas exceptionnels, tels qu'un voyage en mer sur des points où il n'existe pas de service régulier de bateaux, &c. . . sont fixés par des décisions spéciales du Gouverneur-Général.

Art. 107. Les frais de route et l'indemnité de déplacement ne sont pas alloués aux officiers du corps de la gendarmerie pour leurs tournées réglementaires. Il peut cependant être fait exception à cette règle par décision spéciale du Gouverneur-Général pour certaines inspections des Commandants de compagnie, de l'Officier Supérieur Inspecteur, et du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Art. 108. La haute paie journalière d'ancienneté prévue au Chapitre XIII, Article 27, est de 20 paras par jour ; elle est payée à partir du premier jour de la cinquième année de service dans la gendarmerie.

Art. 109. La haute paie s'augmente annuellement de 20 paras pour les sous-officiers et de 10 paras pour les brigadiers et gendarmes de façon à atteindre, le premier jour de la huitième année, la somme de 2 piastres pour les sous-officiers et de 50 paras pour les brigadiers et les gendarmes.

A partir de ce point, la haute paie journalière cesse de croître et demeure constante pour les hommes de troupe rengagés, quel que soit leur grade.

Art. 110. Lorsque les officiers du corps de la gendarmerie ne sont pas logés dans

des bâtiments spéciaux, fournis et meublés aux frais des départements et de la province, il leur est alloué une indemnité de logement et d'ameublement fixée comme il suit : pour les officiers supérieurs, £ T. 3 par mois ; pour les Capitaines, £ T. 2 par mois ; pour les lieutenants et sous-lieutenants, £ T. 1½ par mois.

L'indemnité de logement continue à être payée aux officiers en permission, dont l'absence ne dépasse pas trente jours, aux officiers malades, en traitement chez eux ou à l'hôpital.

Art. 111. Une indemnité spéciale de frais de bureau est allouée :

Au Chef de la Chancellerie ; à l'officier trésorier ; à l'officier d'habillement ; aux Commandants de compagnie ; aux Commandants de section ; aux Commandants de brigade.

Le chiffre de ces indemnités est fixé annuellement par le Gouverneur-Général en raison des besoins constatés.

Art. 112. Tout sous-officier, brigadier, ou gendarme a droit, depuis le moment de son entrée au service, s'il n'est logé chez l'habitant, à une indemnité journalière de literie de 20 paras.

Cette indemnité n'est pas payée aux hommes de la gendarmerie mobile s'ils sont logés en caserne et pourvus de lits de troupe.

Art. 113. Les sous-officiers promus officiers de gendarmerie reçoivent une gratification de première mise et d'équipement fixée :

Pour l'arme à cheval à L. T. 20.
„ à pied à „ 15.

Art. 114. Les gratifications pour bons services prévues à l'Article 10 du présent Règlement peuvent être appliquées aux officiers eux-mêmes jusqu'au grade de Capitaine inclusivement. Leur chiffre est fixé par la décision du Gouverneur-Général qui les accorde ; elles sont prélevées sur un fonds spécial de gratifications et de secours.

Il en est de même pour les gratifications, renouvelables ou non, accordées à d'anciens membres du corps de la gendarmerie, malades ou infirmes, à leurs veuves ou à leurs orphelins.

Art. 115. La solde de non activité est due seulement aux officiers suspendus par mesure de discipline ou pour infirmités temporaires.

Dans le premier cas, elle est : pour les officiers supérieurs, liés ou non par contrat au service, de la moitié de leur solde sans accessoires ;

Pour les officiers subalternes, des deux tiers de leur solde sans accessoires.

Dans le deuxième cas, elle est : pour les officiers supérieurs, liés ou non au service par contrat, des deux tiers de la solde sans accessoires ;

Pour les officiers subalternes, des trois quarts de la solde sans accessoires.

IX.—*Habillement.—Equipement.—Harnachement.—Armement.*

Art. 116. La tenue des gendarmes à cheval de la gendarmerie départementale est la suivante :

Tunique non-ajustée en drap bleu du pays, avec deux rangs de six boutons en cuivre uni et serrée derrière par une patte à deux boutons. Parements et passepoils rouges au bord de la tunique, aux coutures et au tour des manches. Col en drap de fond orné sur le devant d'une patte rouge. Pattes d'épaules en drap rouge uni.

Pantalon de même étoffe que la tunique avec passepoil rouge.

Bottes, avec éperons en fer poli, portées par dessus le pantalon.

Aiguillettes en laine rouge, portées sur l'épaule droite.

Ceinture rouge à filets bleus portée pardessus la tunique.

Capote en drap gris du pays, avec deux rangs de six boutons en cuivre uni, pattes d'épaules en drap rouge, et serrée derrière par une patte à deux boutons.

Bachelik en drap gris.

Les hommes à cheval de la gendarmerie mobile ont le même uniforme, avec cette différence que les revers, pattes et passepoils, sont en drap blanc au lieu d'être rouges ; les aiguillettes sont en coton blanc ; les boutons sont blancs.

Art. 117. La tenue des gendarmes à pied de la gendarmerie départementale est du même modèle que celle de la gendarmerie à cheval, avec cette différence que la tunique et le pantalon sont en drap gris du pays et que les hommes ne portent pas d'éperons.

Les gendarmes à pied de la gendarmerie mobile ont le même uniforme que ceux

de la gendarmerie départementale, avec pattes, revers et passepoils en drap blanc, aiguillettes en coton blanc et boutons blancs.

En été, les gendarmes à pied et à cheval remplacent la tunique en drap par une blouse en toile blanche avec pattes d'épaules mobiles en drap rouge ; la blouse se porte sans aiguillettes.

Art. 118. Les grades sont marqués, pour les brigadiers, par une double tresse en laine blanche ou rouge cousue transversalement sur la patte d'épaule ; pour les maréchaux des logis, par un galon d'or ou d'argent posé sur le haut du col et sur les revers des manches de la tunique ; pour les Maréchaux des Logis Chefs, par un double galon d'or ou d'argent posé dans les mêmes conditions.

Art. 119. Les officiers de la gendarmerie départementale et de la gendarmerie mobile ont un uniforme de la même couleur et du même modèle que celui de leurs hommes. Ils portent les aiguillettes en or et les boutons dorés, dans la gendarmerie départementale ; les aiguillettes d'argent et les boutons argentés dans la gendarmerie mobile.

Tous les officiers, étant montés, portent les éperons d'ordonnance. Tous ont également la ceinture tressée en soie rouge et or, ou en soie rouge et argent.

Les grades se distinguent, comme dans les corps provisoires organisés pendant l'occupation, par des étoiles posées sur des pattes d'épaules en or ou en argent suivant le métal du bouton.

Art. 120. L'équipement et l'armement des hommes à cheval de la gendarmerie se compose :—

D'un kalpak en peau de mouton noir frisé, avec dessus en drap rouge, orné, sur le devant, d'un écusson en cuivre avec l'inscription, "Gendarmerie Indigène de Roumélie ;" d'un cordon de revolver de la couleur des aiguillettes ; d'un sifflet pendu à un cordon noir ; d'un sabre de cavalerie, avec fourreau en métal, suspendu à un ceinturon à deux bélières en cuir rouge ou blanc se portant sous la tunique ; d'une dragonne en cuir rouge ou blanc ; d'une plaque de forme ovale, en cuivre poli, placée au côté gauche de la poitrine et portant le numéro d'ordre du sous-officier, brigadier ou gendarme ; d'une cartouchière en cuir fauve, pour le service à cheval ; d'un revolver d'ordonnance, avec étui en cuir fauve fixé au côté droit du ceinturon ; d'un fusil de cavalerie du système adopté pour la milice ; ce fusil ne se porte que pour le service à cheval.

Art. 121. Les officiers ont : le kalpack avec écusson en cuivre doré, le cordon de revolver en or ou en argent, le sabre d'officier de cavalerie avec ceinturon, bélières et dragonne en or ou en argent et le revolver d'ordonnance.

Hors du service et pendant l'été, quand l'ordre en est donné par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, on peut substituer au kalpak d'ordonnance un képi ou un bonnet de police. Cette coiffure est de même étoffe et de même couleur que la tunique, avec un bandeau de la couleur de la patte d'épaules des hommes de troupe. Les grades des officiers sont marqués, sur le képi ou sur le bonnet de police, par des soutaches d'or ou d'argent.

Art. 122. Le harnachement se compose jusqu'à nouvel ordre, de la selle et de la bride Circassiennes.

Art. 123. Les effets d'habillement, d'équipement et d'armement, ainsi que le linge et la chaussure, sont fournis aux hommes de troupe de la gendarmerie par les magasins du corps.

Chaque homme reçoit en double la tunique, le pantalon, les bottes, la blouse d'été ; en simple tous les autres effets.

La durée réglementaire des effets est de : 18 mois pour la tunique ; 1 an pour le pantalon ; 2 ans pour la capote ; 2 ans pour le bachelik ; 2 ans pour le kalpak ; 1 an pour les aiguillettes ; 1 an pour la ceinture ; 2 ans pour le cordon de revolver ; 2 ans pour le ceinturon et la dragonne ; 6 ans pour l'étui de revolver ; 6 ans pour le baudrier de sabre ; 6 ans pour la cartouchière ; 6 ans pour la bretelle de fusil.

L'écusson du kalpak, la plaque numérotée, le sabre, le revolver et le fusil restent indéfiniment en service. Leur remplacement ou les réparations nécessitées par la négligence sont imputées à la charge de l'homme, sans préjudice des dispositions pénales pour vente, abandon, ou dégradation volontaire d'armes ou d'effets.

Art. 124. Les effets d'habillement, d'équipement et d'armement sont déposés dans un magasin central placé sous la surveillance directe de l'officier d'habillement du corps de la gendarmerie.

Il est créé, dans chaque compagnie départementale, un petit dépôt destiné à subvenir au remplacement normal des effets en cours de service dans la compagnie ; ces dépôts sont placés sous la surveillance du Commandant de chaque compagnie qui

est responsable de leur gestion et, sauf le cas de force majeure, de la conversation des effets.

Les livraisons et remplacements d'effets sont ordonnés, dans chaque compagnie, par le Capitaine commandant la compagnie, sur la présentation d'un bon nominatif établi par le Commandant de section. Avant d'être livrés à l'homme, ils sont empreints des marques particulières au corps et à la compagnie et du numéro matricule de l'homme.

Il est fait mention de la livraison sur le livret individuel de l'homme, avec indication de la durée légale et du prix de l'effet.

Les livraisons d'effets, pour les hommes de troupe de la gendarmerie mobile, sont faites directement au magasin du corps comme il est indiqué à l'Article 147 ci-après.

Art. 125. Les effets appartenant à tout homme de troupe de la gendarmerie arrivé au terme de son engagement et non rengagé, licencié, retraité, ou mort, sont versées au magasin de la compagnie, s'ils n'ont pas atteint le terme de leur durée légale.

Ces effets peuvent être distribués de nouveau comme effets de seconde tenue, avec une durée réduite de tout le temps pendant lequel ils ont déjà été en service.

Art. 126. Tout remplacement d'effets opéré avant le terme réglementaire donne lieu à une retenue faite sur la solde de l'homme et calculée d'après la longueur de l'anticipation et le prix d'achat de l'effet.

Art. 127. L'achat des effets de harnachement, d'écurie, et de pansage reste à la charge des hommes de troupe de la gendarmerie.

Les effets sont fournis, contre remboursement, par les magasins du corps.

X.—*Administration.*

Art. 128. L'administration et la comptabilité générale du corps de la gendarmerie sont dirigées par le Conseil d'Administration, dont la composition est déterminée à l'Article 14 du Chapitre XIII du Statut.

Les deux agents d'exécution directs de ce Conseil, sont l'Officier Trésorier et l'officier d'habillement.

Art. 129. L'Officier Trésorier remplit les fonctions de Secrétaire près du Conseil d'Administration. Il est chargé, sous la direction et la surveillance de ce Conseil, de faire toutes les recettes et d'acquitter toutes les dépenses prévues par les règlements. Il est responsable de tous les fonds qu'il a été chargé de recevoir, jusqu'à ce qu'ils les ait versés dans la Caisse du corps, et de ceux que le Conseil met à sa disposition pour les dépenses du corps. Il est également responsable, envers le Conseil d'Administration, de la régularité des paiements et de la tenue de ses registres.

Il correspond, en qualité de Secrétaire du Conseil d'Administration, avec les Chefs de compagnie et de section, ainsi pour que tout ce qui est relatif à la solde, aux indemnités, aux gratifications et à la transmission des mandats, pièces comptables, imprimés, &c.

Il tient les registres dont le détail est donné ci-après, et, en particulier, les registres-matricules des officiers, sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes.

Art. 130. L'Officier d'Habillement est membre responsable du Conseil d'Administration. Il est, en outre, personnellement responsable des étoffes, matières et effets de toute nature versés dans les magasins du corps, ainsi que de la régularité des distributions et de la tenue des registres.

Il est chargé, sous la direction et le contrôle du Conseil d'Administration, de la réception des effets d'habillement, d'équipement et de harnachement livrés par le commerce et de leur distribution. Il est également en ce qui concerne l'armement.

Il rédige les marchés soumis à l'approbation du Conseil et la correspondance avec les fournisseurs ou avec les Chefs de compagnie, pour tout ce qui concerne son service.

Art. 131. Le Conseil d'Administration du corps de la gendarmerie gère directement la compagnie et le demi escadron de la gendarmerie mobile. Les rapports entre cette compagnie ou cet escadron, le trésorier et l'officier d'habillement, sont ceux qui existent dans un régiment.

Art. 132. Les écritures et opérations auxquelles donne lieu l'administration et la comptabilité du corps sont consignées dans une série de registres et documents dont les principaux sont indiqués ci-après :—

Registres Tenus par le Trésorier.

1. Registre des délibérations du Conseil d'Administration.
2. Registre de correspondance du Conseil.
3. Registre-matricule des officiers.
4. Registre-matricule des hommes de troupe.
5. Registre-matricule des chevaux.
6. Registre des situations journalières d'effectif.
7. Livret de solde.
8. Carnet de caisse.
9. Livret des comptes ouverts avec le Trésor.
10. Registre Journal des recettes et dépenses.
11. Registre de centralisation des recettes et dépenses.
12. Registre du service des indemnités de route et de déplacement.
13. Carnet des fonds divers.
14. Registre des comptes ouverts avec la gendarmerie mobile et avec les compagnies.

Registres Tenus par l'Officier d'Habillement.

1. Registre journal des entrées et sorties du magasin central du corps.
2. Registre des inventaires.
3. Registre des recettes et consommations du service de l'habillement, de l'équipement, et de l'armement.
4. Registre des recettes et consommations du service du harnachement.
5. Registre des comptes ouverts avec les compagnies et avec la gendarmerie mobile.
6. Livret d'armement.
7. Contrôle général des armes.
8. Livret des munitions.

Art. 133. Les Commandants de compagnie remplissent, pour leur compagnie, les fonctions d'Officiers Trésoriers et d'Officiers d'Habillement; ils sont responsables des fonds en caisse et de la conversation et de la distribution des effets et des armes déposés dans le magasin de la compagnie.

A ce titre, ils sont en correspondance directe avec l'Officier Trésorier et avec l'Officier d'Habillement du corps pour tout ce qui a trait au service des prestations en argent et en nature dues à leur compagnie.

Ils tiennent, à cet effet :—

1. Un registre de correspondance avec le Trésorier et avec l'Officier d'Habillement.

2. Un registre-matricule des officiers, des hommes et des chevaux de leur compagnie.

3. Un registre des situations journalières d'effectif ;

4. Un registre journalier des recettes et dépenses ;

5. Un livret de solde ;

6. Un registre des recettes et consommations du service de l'habillement, de l'équipement, de l'armement, et du harnachement ;

7. Un registre des comptes ouverts avec les brigades ;

8. Un livret d'armement ;

9. Un livret des munitions.

Art. 134. Les registres-matricules des officiers et de la troupe sont destinées à recevoir l'inscription détaillée :—

De l'état civil des membres du corps, de leur signalement, de leurs services, &c.

Les registres-matricules des chevaux sont destinées à recevoir les inscriptions suivantes :—

Numéros matricules des chevaux ; noms des officiers, sous-officiers, brigadiers, ou gendarmes, qui en sont détenteurs ; signalement et origine des chevaux ; date de leur réception et prix d'achat ; prix d'estimation aux différents revues, date et cause des pertes.

Art. 135. Les registres des situations journalières d'effectif sont destinés à recevoir, jour par jour, l'inscription des mutations (tant en homme qu'en chevaux) survenues dans le corps ou dans la compagnie.

Art. 136. Le Registre Journal reçoit l'inscription de toutes les recettes faites pour le compte de la compagnie et de toutes les sommes qui sortent de la Caisse à titre de paiement.

Art. 137. Le registre des recettes et consommations du service de l'habillement, &c., est destinée à recevoir l'inscription des entrées et sorties des magasins; il est divisé en quatre chapitres:—

Chapitre 1. Effets d'habillement.
Chapitre 2. Effets d'équipement.
Chapitre 3. Effets de harnachement.
Chapitre 4. Armes et pièces d'armes.

Art. 138. Le registre des comptes ouverts est destiné a recevoir l'inscription des effets et des armes délivrés aux compagnies par le magasin central, ou aux brigades par les magasins de compagnie.

Art. 139. Chaque sous-officier, brigadier, et gendarme, reçoit, à son arrivée, un livret individuel, signé, coté, paraphé par le Président du Conseil d'Administration, ou par le Commandant de compagnie dans la gendarmerie départementale, sur lequel les renseignements qui constituent son état civil, son signalement, et ses services, sont inscrits d'après le registre-matricule.

On y inscrit en outre la nomenclature des effets délivrés, avec leur prix d'achat et la date de livraison, le numéro matricule, le signalement, le prix, et la date de réception du cheval; le numéro des armes, &c.; les paiements faits au titre du service de la solde; les paiement faits à titre d'indemnité.

Ce livret est la propriété du militaire auquel il est délivrée; il ne peut lui être retiré même quand il quitte le service.

Les livrets sont arrêtés et signés par les Commandants de compagnie à la fin de chaque trimestre; après avoir reconnu l'exactitude de leurs comptes, les hommes signent également leur livret.

Art. 140. Dans chaque compagnie, pour la gendarmerie départementale, les officiers, sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes, sont, chaque mois, portés sur des feuilles d'émargement établies par brigade, et donnant le total à recevoir, pour le mois écoulé, tant au titre de la solde qu'au titre des accessoires et des indemnités.

Ces feuilles, certifiées par le Commandant de la compagnie, sont envoyées aux commandants de section, avec un mandat à solde payable à vue à la Caisse cantonale.

Aussitôt que le Commandant de section a reçu de l'agent du Trésor le montant du mandat, il paie lui-même tous les militaires du corps présents à la résidence et expédie, par la voie la plus prompte et la plus sûre, les feuilles d'émargement et la somme afférente à chaque brigade.

Les militaires apposent leur signature sur la feuille d'émargement au moment où le paiement leur est fait; ces feuilles sont renvoyées ensuite au Commandant de section qui les adresse lui-même, avec un bordereau mensuel, au Commandant de la compagnie.

Art. 141. Chaque paiement individuel de solde est immédiatement constaté par l'inscription au livret faite par l'officier, sous-officier ou brigadier qui a fait le paiement.

Les erreurs commises dans le décompte des journées de solde ou des indemnités ne sont jamais un prétexte pour ajourner l'inscription.

Art. 142. Chaque commandant de compagnie de la gendarmerie départementale conserve par devers lui les feuilles d'émargement et autres pièces comptables pour les mettre à l'appui de la comptabilité de la compagnie dont il fait périodiquement l'envoi au Conseil d'Administration, selon les ordres donnés par celui-ci.

Art. 143. Dans la gendarmerie mobile, la solde de la troupe est payée par quinzaine à terme échu; elle est remise par le Trésorier au Commandant de la compagnie et à celui du demi escadron sur production d'un état certifié et acquitté.

Le montant en est réparti entre les ayants droit par les soins de l'un et l'autre de ces officiers.

Art, 144. Il est établi trimestriellement, par les soins de l'officier trésorier, aussitôt qu'il a reçu la comptabilité des compagnies, un état comparatif des allocations dues aux officiers, sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes; après vérification, il est payé à ceux qui ont perçu en moins le complément qui leur est dû et imposé une retenue à ceux qui ont trop perçu.

Il est procédé de la même façon pour la gendarmerie mobile.

Art. 145. Les effets de toute nature sont, en exécution des marchés passés, livrés par les fournisseurs au Conseil d'Administration du corps.

Une fois reconnus de bonne qualité et conformes au modèle, ils sont déposés au magasin et leur réception est constatée au registre des entrées et sorties du magasin tenu par les soins de l'officier d'habillement.

Art. 146. Les envois sont faits aux compagnies sur la remise d'un état de demande adressé par le Commandant de compagnie et approuvé par le Conseil d'Administration.

La réception est constatée par le renvoi de la lettre de voiture sur laquelle le Commandant de compagnie destinataire appose son récépissé.

Art. 147. Les livraisons d'effets aux sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes ont lieu, dans chaque compagnie, par les soins du Commandant de compagnie sur la présentation de bons nominatifs signés par les commandants de section et émargés par les hommes.

Ces bons, récapitulés par trimestre, sont mis à l'appui d'un état général nominatif établi par compagnie, certifié par le Commandant de compagnie, et présentant, dans l'ordre des chapitres du registre des recettes et consommations de la compagnie, le détail des effets livrés.

Pour les hommes de la gendarmerie mobile, les livraisons sont faites directement au magasin du corps par les soins de l'Officier d'Habillement sur la remise de bons établis par le Commandant de compagnie ou par le Commandant du demi escadron, et en leur présence.

Art. 148. L'administration et la comptabilité du corps de la gendarmerie sont soumises au contrôle de l'officier supérieur chargé de la direction de l'administration et du contrôle à l'Etat-Major du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Les registres et pièces à l'appui de la comptabilité en deniers et en matières sont remis à cet officier supérieur ou à ses délégués toutes les fois qu'ils le requièrent pour leurs vérifications.

Les fonds existant en caisse et les effets en magasin lui sont présentés.

Art. 149. L'arrêté des comptes du corps se fait annuellement par les soins de cet officier supérieur.

Art. 150. Les registres, états, livrets, et pièces de toute nature relatifs au service, à l'administration, et à la comptabilité du corps de la gendarmerie, sont établis sur des modèles et formules arrêtés par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Ces modèles imprimés sont mis, par le Conseil d'Administration, à la disposition de tous les ayants droit.

Inclosure 2 in No. 359.

Chapitre XII.—Milice Locale.

I.—*Bases de l'Institution.*

ARTICLE 1er. La milice est une force militaire indigène, territoriale et sédentaire; elle réside ordinairement dans ses foyers et ne peut être mobilisée, en totalité ou en partie, que par le Gouverneur-Général agissant en vertu de la délégation permanente de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Art. 2. La milice est appelée, en temps de paix, à appuyer éventuellement l'action de la gendarmerie pour le maintien de l'ordre public à l'intérieur.

En qualité de force militaire Ottomane, elle pourra, en cas de guerre et sur la demande de la Sublime Porte, renforcer, dans les limites des possessions Européennes de l'Empire, l'armée de Sa Majesté le Sultan, lorsqu'une loi de l'Empire, rendue en exécution des promesses déjà faites par le Gouvernement Impérial, aura effectivement donné à tous les sujets de l'Empire, un droit égal aux fonctions, honneurs, et devoirs militaires.

Dans ce dernier cas, elle constitue un contingent auxiliaire sous le commandement de ses Chefs directs qui demeurent chargés de diriger son fonctionnement intérieur. Les charges financières résultant de la mise sur le pied de guerre de la milice incombent au trésor de l'Empire.

Art. 3. Tout habitant indigène de la province est astreint au service militaire personnel dans la milice et dans sa réserve.

Art. 4. Les remplacements ne sont point autorisés.

Art. 5. L'exemption définitive du service n'est accordée que pour cause d'incapacité physique.

Les dispenses prévues au titre II ne sont pas définitives.

Art. 6. Ne sont pas admis à servir dans la milice les hommes antérieurement condamnés à une peine afflictive ou infamante.

Art. 7. Nul ne peut servir dans la milice s'il n'est indigène de la province ou si son admission n'a été spécialement autorisée par une ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général rendue dans la forme d'un règlement d'administration publique.

II.—*Recrutement.*

Art. 8. Le territoire de la province est divisé en douze districts de recrutement correspondant, deux par deux, à chacun des six départements administratifs.

Un officier supérieur ou capitaine remplit les fonctions de commandant militaire du district. Il est assisté, pour la tenue des contrôles du recrutement, par un sergent-major de district.

Art. 9. Aussitôt après la promulgation du présent Statut, on établira, dans chaque commune, un registre-matricule contenant les noms de tous les habitants mâles domiciliés dans la commune, depuis les nouveaux-nés jusqu'aux hommes âgés de 32 ans révolus.

Art. 10. Sont considérés comme légalement domiciliés dans la commune :—

1. Les hommes nés et établis dans la commune ;

2. Les hommes établis dans la commune qui ne pourraient prouver leur inscription dans aucune autre commune ;

3. Les absents dont le père, la mère, ou le tuteur sont établis dans la commune, à moins qu'ils ne prouvent leur établissement dans une autre commune de la province.

Art. 11. Le registre-matricule sera établi, dans chaque commune, par les soins d'une Commission composée des Maires et Adjoints et du Chef religieux de chacune des communautés. Le plus ancien Maire est Président de droit de la Commission ; il est personnellement responsable de l'exactitude des indications portées sur le registre-matricule.

Art. 12. Le registre-matricule sera tenu à jour par l'inscription de toutes les naissances d'enfants mâles et par celle des hommes qui pourront, par la suite, faire élection de domicile dans la commune.

Art. 13. Il est formé, pour chaque canton, un Conseil Permanent de Recrutement composé : du Bailli ou du Secrétaire-Général de la Préfecture pour les cantons des chefs-lieux de département, d'un membre du Conseil-Général appartenant au canton, désigné par le sort, du Juge de Canton résidant au chef-lieu du canton et d'un représentant laïque ou ecclésiastique de chacune des communautés religieuses représentées dans le canton ; un employé du bailliage remplit, près du Conseil, les fonctions de secrétaire.

Ce Conseil décide, sans frais, sur toutes les réclamations relatives à l'établissement des registres-matricules. Il ne peut être fait appel de ces décisions que devant la Commission Départementale.

Art. 14. Les Maires sont tenus d'adresser au Bailli de leur canton respectif, dans les trois mois qui suivront la promulgation du présent Statut, un relevé détaillé du registre-matricule de leur commune. Il sera dressé, à l'aide de ces relevés, un registre-matricule cantonal.

Les modifications résultant des décès, des naissances, et des changements de domicile sont, de même, notifiés chaque année au Bailli par les soins et sous la responsabilité des Maires ; ces relevés sont arrêtés à la date du 31 Décembre et doivent être transmis, dans le courant du mois de Janvier, aux baillis, qui font rectifier et compléter en conséquence les indications portées au registre-matricule cantonal.

Art. 15. Un Tableau spécial établi d'après les indications du registre cantonal et donnant les noms des jeunes gens qui ont accompli leur vingtième année au 1er Janvier de l'année courante est dressé, par les soins des Baillis, dans le courant du mois de Février.

Des relevés particuliers de cette liste de recensement cantonale, établis par commune, sont adressés aux Maires, qui leur donnent la plus grande publicité possible. Les réclamations contre ces inscriptions doivent être présentées dans un délai de quinze jours après l'affichage des listes.

Les listes communales sont ensuite renvoyées aux Baillis avec les dossiers des réclamants. Les Baillis en saisissent les Conseils de Recrutement qui statuent et arrêtent définitivement la liste de recensement cantonale. Ces inscriptions devront toujours comprendre également le nom du père.

Art. 16. Les opérations du tirage au sort ont lieu au chef-lieu du canton ou dans certaines localités désignées par le Conseil de Recrutement cantonal. Ces dispositions sont annoncées par voie d'affiches.

Le Conseil se transporte au jour fixé dans le lieu désigné ; il est assisté du Commandant militaire du district de milice ou d'un officier désigné par lui, et du Sergent-Major de district chargé de la tenue des contrôles.

Les Maires des communes doivent toujours être présents aux opérations du tirage au sort et à celles de la révision. Un médecin désigné par le Préfet assiste la Commission pour procéder à l'examen médical des conscrits.

Art. 17. Pour l'opération du tirage au sort, il est établi autant de bulletins qu'il y a de noms inscrits sur la liste de recensement.

Ces bulletins, numérotés suivant une progression arithmétique en partant du chiffre 1, sont parafés par tous les membres de la Commission et déposés dans l'urne en présence des jeunes gens inscrits ou de leurs représentants.

Les hommes sont appelés par ordre alphabétique pour retirer leur bulletin de l'urne. S'ils ne répondent pas à l'appel ou si personne ne se présente en leur nom, le numéro est tiré par le Maire de leur commune ou section de commune. Le Président du Conseil en fait la lecture à haute voix et le numéro est inscrit immédiatement, sur la liste du tirage, à côté du nom et prénoms du possesseur du numéro.

Le tirage achevé, l'opération est considérée comme définitive et ne peut être recommencée. La liste du tirage ainsi établie est lue à haute voix et signée par tous les Maires et par tous les membres du Conseil.

Art. 18. Les opérations de la révision suivent d'aussi près que possible celles du tirage au sort.

L'officier de santé donne son avis sur chacun des jeunes gens appelés successivement devant le Conseil ; le Conseil, après avoir pris l'avis du médecin, décide à la majorité des voix sur leur aptitude au service. S'il y a partage des voix, l'opinion émise par le médecin devient prépondérante.

Art. 19. Les jeunes gens qui, par suite de quelque infirmité physique, sont déclarés incapables de faire dans la milice un service actif ou auxiliaire sont exemptés du service militaire.

Le Conseil peut ajourner à l'année suivante les jeunes gens qui sont seulement d'une complexion délicate susceptible d'amélioration. Ces ajournements peuvent être prononcés pendant trois années consécutives.

Art. 20. La dispense de service militaire est accordée en temps de paix :

1. A l'aîné d'orphelins de père et de mère.

2. Au fils unique, à l'aîné des fils, ou, à défaut de fils et de gendre, à l'aîné des petits-fils d'une femme veuve, d'une femme dont le mari est légalement déclaré absent, d'un père aveugle ou infirme, ou d'un père septuagénaire. Si le frère aîné, dans l'un des cas prévus ci-dessus, se trouvait être lui-même aveugle ou infirme, la dispense s'étendrait également au frère puîné ;

3. A quiconque a un frère engagé sous les drapeaux à titre permanent ;

4. Au frère d'un soldat mort ou retraité par suite d'infirmités ou blessures contractées dans un service commandé.

La dispense prévue aux sections 3 et 4 n'est applicable qu'à un fils par famille, mais elle est renouvelable autant de fois que le droit à la dispense vient à se reproduire.

Toutes ces dispenses sont applicables, même après l'incorporation, pour quiconque viendrait ultérieurement à se trouver placé dans ces conditions de famille telles qu'il eût eu droit à la dispense lors de sa comparution devant le Conseil de Révision.

Art. 21. Les membres du clergé des différents cultes reconnus dans la province.

Les élèves des séminaires et écoles ayant déjà commencé leurs études ecclésiastiques.

Les instituteurs et les élèves des écoles d'instituteurs, à la condition de se vouer à l'enseignement pendant une période de douze années, sont dispensés provisoirement du service dans la milice.

Si les uns ou les autres renoncent volontairement à leur profession, ils retombent aussitôt sous le coup de la loi et sont inscrits sur la liste de recensement de l'année courante.

Art. 22. Sont également dispensés du service militaire, pendant la durée de leur fonction ou de leur emploi :

(*a.*) Les Directeurs, membres du Conseil Privé, les membres de l'Assemblée Provinciale, et les fonctionnaires attachés à l'Assemblée ;

(*b.*) Les fonctionnaires et employés de l'Administration des Postes et des Télégraphes ;

(*c.*) Les Directeurs et infirmiers attachés aux hôpitaux civils, les Directeurs et gardiens des prisons, les agents de la police rurale, les douaniers et gardes forestiers ;

(*d.*) Les employés des lignes de chemins de fer.

Art. 23. Les médecins ou élèves en médecine et les vétérinaires ne peuvent être employés dans la milice qu'au titre de leur spécialité.

Art. 24. Il peut être accordé des sursis d'appel, dont la durée ne saurait toutefois excéder quatre ans, aux jeunes gens qui font, à l'étranger, leurs études universitaires.

Ces sursis ne dispensent pas les jeunes gens qui les ont obtenus de faire, à leur retour, le nombre intégral d'années de service exigé des hommes de leur classe.

Art. 25. Toutes les dispenses peuvent être annulées en temps de guerre par ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général rendue dans la forme d'un règlement d'administration publique.

Art. 26. Lorsque le Conseil de Révision a terminé ses délibérations sur les exemptions, ajournements, dispenses et exclusions, la liste du recrutement cantonale est arrêtée et signée par tous les membres du Conseil et déclarée définitive. Cette liste est divisée en cinq parties comprenant, dans l'ordre des numéros de tirage :—

1. Ceux qui ont été déclarés aptes au service et qui n'appartiennent à aucune des catégories ci-après désignées ;
2. Les hommes dispensés par application de l'Article 20 ci-dessus ;
3. Les hommes dispensés en vertu des Articles 21 et 22 ;
4. Les hommes ajournés ;
5. Les hommes classés, pour défaut de taille ou faiblesse de constitution, dans les service auxiliaires de la milice.

Art. 27. Après la clôture définitive de la liste de recrutement cantonale, le Conseil statue sur les demandes de substitution de numéros entre les hommes du même canton.

Art. 28. Les travaux des Conseils de Révision doivent être entièrement achevés au plus tard le 1er Juin de chaque année.

Art. 29. Le sergent-major de chaque district de milice tient, sous la surveillance et la responsabilité du Commandant Militaire du district, le registre-matricule de recrutement établi sur la base des listes mentionnées à l'Article 26.

Il tient également un contrôle spécial des engagés volontaires.

Toutes les mutations des hommes inscrits sont successivement portées sur ce contrôle, d'après les déclarations faites par les hommes eux-mêmes ou d'après les avis fournis par les Maires des communes.

III.—*Service Militaire.*

Art. 30. Tout habitant indigène de Roumélie déclaré apte au service militaire est appelé à faire partie :—

1. Du premier ban de la milice pendant quatre ans ;
2. Du deuxième ban de la milice pendant quatre ans ;
3. De la réserve de la milice pendant quatre ans.

Le premier ban de la milice se compose, indépendamment des engagés volontaires appelés à former les cadres permanents de la milice et du Bataillon-école, de tous les hommes déclarés aptes au service et appartenant aux quatre dernières classes appelées.

Le deuxième ban de la milice se compose des hommes déclarés aptes au service et appartenant aux quatre classes qui précèdent immédiatement les quatre classes dont le premier ban de la milice est formé.

La réserve est formée de tous les hommes qui ont accompli huit ans de service dans la milice du premier et du deuxième ban et qui appartiennent aux quatre classes suivantes.

En cas de péril national, tout habitant valide de la province depuis l'âge de 18 ans jusqu'à l'âge de 50 ans est à la disposition de l'autorité militaire pour la défense du territoire de la province.

Art. 31. Tous les hommes inscrits sur les listes de recensement cantonal qui n'ont pas été exemptés, ajournés, dispensés, ou exclus font partie de la milice du premier ban.

Ils sont, en conséquence, inscrits immédiatement sur les contrôles du bataillon de milice du premier ban de leur district de recrutement et mis à la disposition de l'autorité militaire.

Toutefois, sauf le cas de mobilisation, ne seront appelés annuellement à l'activité, dans chaque district de recrutement, qu'un nombre d'hommes égal au quart de l'effectif du pied de guerre du bataillon de milice du premier ban, abstraction faite du cadre permanent.

Ces hommes sont pris, par ordre de numéro de tirage, dans la première partie de la liste de recrutement cantonale. Si deux ou plusieurs cantons sont appelés à faire partie d'un même district de recrutement, une ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général, rendue sur la proposition du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, fixe, proportionnellement au nombre d'hommes déclarés aptes au service, le nombre d'hommes appelés dans chaque canton.

Art. 32. Les hommes inscrits sur la première partie de la liste de recrutement qui, en vertu de l'Article 31, se trouvent en excédant du nombre d'hommes appelés, sont immédiatement classés dans la disponibilité. Ils demeurent à la disposition de l'autorité militaire en cas de mobilisation totale ou partielle. Ils sont tenus, en outre, de prendre part aux exercices de détail des sociétés de gymnastique et peuvent être appelés, si l'état des finances le permet, à l'instruction bi-mensuelle et aux manœuvres annuelles de la milice du premier ban.

Art. 33. Les jeunes gens dispensés ne peuvent être appelés à l'activité que dans le cas de mobilisation générale de la milice.

Art. 34. L'année de service est comptée à partir du 1er Octobre.

Chaque année, au 30 Septembre, on délivre aux hommes qui ont terminé leur temps de service dans la milice du premier ban,—leur temps dans la milice du deuxième ban,—ou leur temps de service dans la réserve,—un certificat de passage du premier au deuxième ban de la milice,—du deuxième ban de la milice à la réserve —ou un certificat de libération définitive.

En cas de mobilisation motivée par des circonstances de guerre, ces certificats ne sont délivrés qu'après l'arrivée au corps des hommes de recrue destinés à remplacer les hommes libérés.

Art. 35. Lors de leur passage du premier au deuxième ban, les hommes sont, dans chaque district, rayés des contrôles du bataillon du premier ban et inscrits sur les contrôles de celui du deuxième ban.

Il est toujours fait mention, dans ces inscriptions, du numéro de tirage de l'homme.

Art. 36. Les hommes qui passent dans la réserve sont inscrits sur un contrôle spéciale établi par district. A défaut d'un nombre suffisant de disponibles, ils sont appelés à compléter, en cas de mobilisation générale, l'effectif des bataillons du premier et du deuxième ban de la milice. L'appel a lieu par classe, en commençant par la classe la plus jeune.

Si la mobilisation s'étend seulement à la milice du premier ban, les hommes de complément sont pris parmi les hommes inscrits sur les contrôles du bataillon de milice du deuxième ban, en commençant toujours par la classe la plus jeune et en suivant, dans chaque classe, l'ordre des numéros de tirage.

Art. 37. Les hommes de la milice peuvent se marier sans autorisation après avoir achevé leur première année de service dans la milice du premier ban. Les hommes mariés restent soumis aux mêmes obligations que les autres hommes de leur classe.

IV.—*Organisation.*

Art. 38. Chacun des douze districts établis conformément aux dispositions de l'Article 8 ci-dessus recrute un bataillon de milice du premier ban et un bataillon de milice du deuxième ban.

Le Commandant Militaire de chaque district est en même temps Commandant du bataillon de milice du premier ban du district.

Art. 39. Chaque bataillon de milice du premier ban possède un Etat-Major permanent composé, outre le Commandant du bataillon, de deux officiers et treize hommes de troupe, savoir :—

Un officier Adjudant-Major de bataillon ; un officier chargé de l'administration du bataillon ; deux sous-officiers et huit soldats (dont trois ordonnances, ouvriers et secrétaires) ; un chef-armurier, ayant rang de sous-officier ; deux ouvriers armuriers.

Art. 40. Chaque bataillon du premier ban possède en outre, en temps de paix, une compagnie active, dite "compagnie présente," qui a pour destination d'instruire, d'une part, les hommes appartenant au premier contingent de la milice pendant la période d'instruction qu'ils doivent passer sous les drapeaux durant leur première année de service, et, d'autre part, de concourir au maintien de l'ordre public et de fournir le service de garnison.

La compagnie présente a un cadre permanent composé de : un capitaine, Commandant de compagnie ; un lieutenant ; deux sous-lieutenants ; un sergent-major de compagnie ; cinq sergents, dont un fourrier ; huit caporaux.

L'effectif des soldats appartenant en permanence aux compagnies présentes est fixé annuellement lors du vote du budget; il ne peut être inférieur à cinquante hommes par compagnie, ordonnances et clairons compris.

Art. 41. Chaque sergent-major de district est assisté dans son service par un caporal et un soldat secrétaires; ces hommes comptent pour ordre à la compagnie présente et sont en excédant du cadre réglementaire de la compagnie.

Art. 42. Les bataillons de milice du premier et du deuxième ban sont à quatre compagnies; leur composition est indiquée au Tableau A ci-annexé.

Art. 43. La milice est placée sous la direction supérieure du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie a le grade d'officier général.

L'Etat-Major du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie se compose:—

1. D'un Chef d'Etat-Major, Directeur de la Chancellerie Militaire, ayant sous ses ordres directs deux officiers Chefs des bureaux du personnel et du matériel;

2. D'un officier supérieur, Directeur de l'Administration, ayant sous ses ordres direct deux officiers Chefs des bureaux de l'Administration et du Contrôle;

3. De deux officiers adjoints, faisant aussi fonctions d'Aides-de-camp;

4. D'un certain nombre de sous-officiers, caporaux, et soldats secrétaires.

Art. 44. Indépendamment des bataillons de la milice locale, il est formé un bataillon-école destiné à compléter et à uniformiser l'instruction des officiers et sous-officiers indigènes de la milice et de la gendarmerie, à former des ouvriers techniques et à assurer le fonctionnement des établissements militaires.

Le bataillon-école se compose:—

1. De deux compagnies d'infanterie dont la composition est réglée comme celle des compagnies présentes dans les bataillons de la milice du premier ban;

2. D'un escadron de cavalerie;

3. D'une demi-batterie d'artillerie, avec une section d'artificiers et d'armuriers;

4. D'une compagnie d'ouvriers techniques comprenant une section de sapeurs et une section d'ouvriers constructeurs.

La composition détaillée du bataillon-école est donnée au tableau B ci-annexé.

Art. 45. Les officiers, sous-officiers, caporaux et soldats appartenant à l'Etat-Major de la milice, aux cadres permanents des bataillons, au service du recrutement et au bataillon-école sont seuls entretenus et soldés aux frais du budget de la province.

Art. 46. L'effectif permanent des cadres présents dont le détail est donné à l'Article 45 se recrute à l'aide d'engagés volontaires, conformément aux dispositions du Titre VI ci-annexé.

A défaut d'un nombre suffisant d'engagés volontaires, cet effectif est complété par le maintien sous les drapeaux, pendant deux ans au plus, d'un certain nombre d'hommes appartenant à la classe la plus jeune de la milice du premier ban. Ces hommes sont pris parmi les numéros les plus bas de la liste du tirage; le nombre des hommes de cette catégorie est fixé annuellement par Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général rendue dans la forme d'un règlement d'administration publique.

V.—*Instruction.*

Art. 47. L'instruction est donnée aux hommes de la milice du premier ban dans les compagnies présentes de chaque bataillon. La durée de la période d'instruction des jeunes soldats est fixée à deux mois.

A cet effet, les recrues appelées annuellement à l'activité en exécution des dispositions de l'Article 31, sont, lors de leur inscription sur les contrôles du bataillon du premier ban de leur district, réparties entre les quatre compagnies de ce bataillon.

Les recrues appartenant à chacune des quatre compagnies sont appelées, à tour de rôle, de deux mois en deux mois, de façon que l'instruction, commencée au 1er Octobre, soit terminée, dans chaque bataillon, à la fin du huitième mois de la période d'instruction, c'est-à-dire au 31 Mai de l'année suivante.

Art. 48. La période trimestrielle qui suit comprenant les mois de Juin, Juillet, et Août, est consacrée à l'instruction des officiers et sous-officiers des cadres non-permanents de la milice du premier et du deuxième ban.

Les officiers et sous-officiers appartenant à ces cadres sont tenus de prendre part à ces cours d'instruction à raison de quinze jours par an. Toutefois, des dispenses d'exercices peuvent être accordées, par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, à ceux de ces officiers et sous-officiers qui en font la demande,

à la condition que ces dispenses ne soient pas demandées plus de deux fois en trois ans.

Cette disposition ne s'applique pas aux fonctionnaires publics qui peuvent obtenir des dispenses permanentes si la nature de leurs fonctions l'exige.

Les sous-officiers ont droit, pendant la durée de ce stage, à la nourriture et au logement; les officiers reçoivent la solde de leur grade.

Art. 49. Le mois de Septembre est créé aux manœuvres annuelles de la milice dont la durée ne peut excéder quatre semaines.

Sont appelés à y prendre part tous les hommes du premier ban de la milice, à l'exception de ceux de la classe la plus jeune, et éventuellement, les miliciens disponibles du premier ban.

Art. 50. Si l'état des finances de la province le permet, un appel analogue pourra être adressé aux hommes du deuxième ban de la milice. La durée de cet appel ne devra pas excéder quinze jours par an.

Art. 51. Les hommes de la milice du premier et du deuxième ban régulièrement convoqués pour prendre part aux manœuvres annuelles ont droit à la nourriture et au logement. La nourriture est fournie par les soins des municipalités, à charge de remboursement par le budget de la province. Le logement est donné chez les habitants à défaut de place dans les bâtiments militaires. On s'attachera autant que possible à loger les miliciens chez leurs coreligionnaires des localités occupées par eux.

Il n'est pas alloué de frais de route aux officiers, sous-officiers, et soldats appelés à prendre part aux manœuvres.

Les officiers des cadres non-permanents reçoivent seulement la solde de leur grade calculée en raison du nombre de jours écoulés entre celui de leur départ et celui de leur retour au lieu ordinaire de leur résidence.

Art. 52. Les manœuvres peuvent avoir lieu par compagnie ou par bataillon et, éventuellement, par groupes de bataillons. Dans ce dernier cas, les fractions mobiles du bataillon-école peuvent également être appelées à y participer.

Une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général rendue dans la forme d'un règlement d'administration publique détermine, chaque année, la nature et la durée des manœuvres. Elles doivent toujours être terminées avant le 1er Octobre, date de l'incorporation des jeunes soldats.

Art. 53. Les officiers et sous-officiers de la milice proposés pour l'avancement aux différents grades d'officiers doivent, en principe, faire un stage d'instruction au bataillon-école. La durée du stage est de deux mois au moins et ne peut excéder six mois.

Pendant leur séjour au bataillon, les officiers ont droit à la solde de leur grade; les sous-officiers sont seulement logés et nourris.

Tout homme admis à contracter un engagement dans la gendarmerie à cheval est dirigé d'abord sur le bataillon-école où il suit, pendant six semaines au moins, les exercices de l'escadron de cavalerie. Les officiers promus dans la gendarmerie doivent de même, aussitôt que possible après leur promotion, faire un stage analogue à l'escadron du bataillon-école.

VI.—*Engagements et Rengagements.*

Art. 54. Tout habitant indigène de la province peut être admis à contracter un engagement volontaire dans le cadre permanent de la milice du premier ban ou du bataillon-école aux conditions suivantes:

L'engagé volontaire doit—

1. Avoir 18 ans accomplis et l'aptitude physique exigée pour le service militaire.

2. Jouir de ses droits civils et n'avoir pas été condamné à une peine correctionnelle excédant trois mois de prison.

3. N'être ni marié ni veuf avec enfants.

4. Si l'engagé n'a pas 21 ans accomplis, être porteur du consentement de ses père, mère, ou tuteur.

5. Produire les attestations légales d'une bonne conduite soutenue.

Art. 55. La durée de l'engagement est de deux ans. Les années passées au service en qualité d'engagé volontaire sont comptées en déduction du temps de service exigé dans la milice et dans la réserve.

Art. 56. Les miliciens du premier ban, à quelque catégorie qu'ils appartiennent, sont autorisés à contracter des engagements volontaires dans les conditions stipulées aux Articles précédents.

Art. 57. L'engagement volontaire est contracté par devant le Sergent-Major du district, sur la présentation d'un certificat d'aptitude physique délivré par un médecin désigné par le Commandant Militaire du district.

Art. 58. Le nombre des engagements volontaires recevables est fixé annuellement par le Gouverneur-Général après le vote du budget de la milice.

Les engagements pour les bataillons de milice sont reçus seulement pendant la période de quatre mois qui s'écoule entre la clôture et la reprise de l'instruction annuelle. Les engagements pour le bataillon-école sont reçus durant toute l'année dans les limites de nombre indiquées à l'alinéa précédent.

Art. 59. Les sous-officiers, caporaux, et soldats servant à titre permanent peuvent être autorisés par leur Chef de corps à se rengager pour un an au moins et deux ans au plus.

Les rengagements ne sont plus autorisés quand l'homme a dépassé sa vingt-huitième année, s'il est caporal ou soldat.

Les rengagements des sous-officiers peuvent être autorisés jusqu'à ce que leur temps de service leur donne droit à la retraite.

Art. 60. Tout milicien rengagé a droit, à partir du premier jour de sa cinquième année de service permanent, à une haute paie journalière d'ancienneté dont le chiffre est fixé, pour les soldats, caporaux, et sous-officiers, par le règlement provisoire ci-annexé.

Cette haute paie s'augmente annuellement jusqu'à la huitième année de service, après laquelle elle cesse de croître.

Art. 61. Tout milicien rengagé porte sur la manche un chevron en laine; ce chevron est en or pour les sous-officiers et pour les caporaux et soldats ayant six ans de service accomplis.

Art. 62. Les rengagements sont reçus devant le Commandant Militaire du district ou devant le Commandant du bataillon-école.

VII.—*Mobilisation.*

Art. 63. La mobilisation est partielle ou générale.

La mobilisation partielle est décrétée par une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général rendue dans la forme d'un règlement d'administration publique.

La mobilisation générale ne peut être ordonnée par le Gouverneur-Général qu'après un vote conforme de l'Assemblée Provinciale spécialement convoquée à cet effet, sauf dans le cas prévu à l'Article 2.

Art. 64. En cas de mobilisation du premier ban de la milice, les hommes instruits des quatre classes de cette catégorie appelés au drapeau sont renforcés, s'il est nécessaire, par l'appel des disponibles des mêmes classes, ou par celui des hommes inscrits sur les contrôles du deuxième ban.

Art. 65. Outre le bataillon mobile à quatre compagnies, il est formé alors une section de dépôt dans laquelle sont encadrés les hommes en excédant de l'effectif normal du bataillon mobile. Le capitaine de la compagnie présente a le commandement de cette section et prend par intérim le commandement territorial du district.

Art. 66. La milice du deuxième ban forme, de même, en cas de mobilisation, un bataillon mobile à quatre compagnies; l'excédant des hommes est versé dans la section de dépôt commune aux deux bataillons. L'effectif du bataillon est formé des miliciens instruits du deuxième ban, des disponibles appartenant à cette catégorie et du nombre de réservistes nécessaire.

Art. 67. Si les deux bans de la milice sont mobilisés en même temps, les hommes de complément, pour les bataillons des deux bans, sont pris exclusivement parmi les disponibles et parmi les réservistes.

Art. 68. Dans le cas de mobilisation générale ou partielle, les officiers de tous grades appelés à l'activité ont droit à la solde de leur grade à partir du jour où ils se mettent en route pour rejoindre le corps.

Les hommes de troupe, à l'exception de ceux qui appartiennent aux cadres permanents, ont droit seulement à la nourriture et au logement.

Art. 69. Il n'est pas formé, en temps ordinaire, de divisions ou brigades.

Les divisions ou brigades temporairement formés à l'occasion des manœuvres n'ont ni Chefs permanents ni États-Majors constitués.

Dans le cas seulement où, par application des dispositions de l'Article 2 ci-dessus, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Sultan viendrait à faire appel au concours militaire de la milice, il pourra être formé des divisions et brigades.

Les brigades seront ordinairement à six bataillons; la division est formée de la réunion de deux à trois brigades.

Les unes et les autres peuvent être composées indistinctement de bataillons du premier ban et de bataillons du deuxième ban de la milice.

Les fonctions de Commandant de division et de brigade seront dévolues aux officiers déjà en service dans la milice.

La décision du Gouverneur-Général qui leur attribuera à cet effet des grades provisoires sera soumise, lors du licenciement de la milice, à la révision de l'Assemblée Provinciale qui demeure libre d'annuler ces nominations provisoires ou de proposer leur confirmation.

Art. 70. La création éventuelle d'escadrons de cavalerie, de batteries d'artillerie, de troupes du train, d'hôpitaux, &c., nécessitée par la mise sur le pied de guerre de la milice ou d'une partie de la milice, est ordonnée par une loi provinciale.

Art. 71. Le droit de réquisition est exercé seulement en cas de mobilisation partielle ou générale de la milice et lorsqu'il est impossible de pourvoir aux besoins par d'autres moyens.

Il est limité, en temps de paix, au logement, à la fourniture des vivres, des fourrages et du chauffage, et à l'occupation ou à l'usage momentané, à l'occasion des manœuvres, de terrains cultivés, bois, fontaines, &c.

Le droit de réquisition appartient seulement au Chef d'une troupe ou détachement qui l'exerce sous sa responsabilité.

Tout réquisition, à l'exception de celles qui sont relatives au logement ou à l'usage des eaux, donne lieu à la délivrance d'un bon de réquisition remboursable.

Art. 72. En temps de guerre, le droit de réquisition s'étend également aux chevaux, voitures et moyens de transport de toute nature, y compris les chemins de fer; aux embarcations fluviales et maritimes; aux matériaux susceptibles d'être utilisés dans un but de guerre; en un mot, à tous les services et objets dont l'emploi est exceptionnellement nécessité par l'intérêt militaire.

Art. 73. Une loi provinciale, établie sur les bases indiquées aux deux Articles ci-dessus, fixera les tarifs d'indemnités allouées en raison de réquisitions et déterminera les conditions d'exercice de ce droit.

Art. 74. En temps de paix comme en temps de guerre, les médecins, officiers de santé et pharmaciens sont astreints, à défaut de membres du corps de santé militaire, à donner leurs soins aux officiers, sous-officiers, et soldats de la milice et de la gendarmerie présents au corps. Ils doivent également, dans la limite du besoin, concourir à l'organisation et au fonctionnement des hôpitaux temporaires créés, à l'occasion des manœuvres, à proximité du lieu de leur résidence.

Toutes les fois que les soins médicaux à donner aux gendarmes et aux miliciens occasionneront un déplacement d'une heure au moins, il sera alloué aux médecins requis des honoraires calculés à raison de la distance parcourue. Les médicaments fournis seront remboursés aux pharmaciens sur prix de facture.

VIII.—*Administration.*

Art. 75. L'administration et la comptabilité des troupes de la milice sont confiées, en temps de paix, dans chaque district de milice, à l'officier d'administration adjoint à l'Etat-Major du Commandant militaire du district.

Cet officier centralise l'administration et la comptabilité des bataillons du premier et du deuxième ban. Il est dirigé et surveillé par une Commission Administrative dont il fait lui-même partie avec voix délibérative.

Pour toutes les affaires relatives au cadre permanent et au bataillon du premier ban, la Commission Administrative se compose: du Commandant militaire du district, Président, d'un officier du cadre de la compagnie présente et de l'officier d'administration. Elle est complétée par l'adjonction de l'officier commandant le bataillon du deuxième ban et d'un officier de ce bataillon pour toutes les affaires relatives au bataillon du deuxième ban.

Art. 76. En cas de mobilisation, l'officier d'administration, qui reste auprès du Commandant de la section de dépôt commune aux bataillons du premier et du deuxième ban, centralise toutes les pièces relatives à l'administration et à la comptabilité des deux bataillons mobiles. Il est remplacé, dans chacun de ces bataillons, par un officier payeur agissant sous la direction d'une Commission provisoire de bataillon composée du Commandant de bataillon et d'un officier de troupe.

Art. 77. Le Bataillon-école s'administre séparément par les soins de l'officier

chargé de l'administration du bataillon et d'une Commission Administrative établie sur les mêmes bases que celles des bataillons de la milice du premier ban.

Si une fraction mobile du Bataillon-école est détachée momentanément, elle est provisoirement administrée par la Commission Administrative du district dans le ressort de laquelle elle se trouve.

Art. 78. Le contrôle est exercé par l'officier supérieur attaché à l'Etat-Major du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie en qualité de Directeur de l'Administration et du Contrôle.

Des employés civils, à défaut d'officiers compétents, peuvent être adjoints pour le contrôle des comptes. Il peut en être de même pour les divers emplois administratifs rattachés à l'Etat-Major de Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Le service des inspections administratives est confié, jusqu'à la création d'un personnel spécial de contrôle, à des officiers supérieurs désignés par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Art. 79. Les dispositions relatives au service de la solde, à la tenue des registres-matricules des corps, à l'établissement des pièces de comptabilité, aux services de l'habillement, de l'armement, du harnachement, et du campement, à l'établissement des comptes annuels de gestion et des inventaires, enfin, à la conservation des archives, seront fixées par une loi provinciale, ou, s'il n'y a pas de dépenses engagées par Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général.

Il y est pourvu, jusqu'à nouvel ordre, en ce qui concerne les dispositions les plus urgentes, par les Titres III, IV, V, et VI du Règlement ci-annexé, qui demeure exécutoire jusqu'au vote de la loi provinciale prévue à l'alinéa précédent.

Art. 80. Une loi provinciale déterminera les conditions d'admission à la retraite des officiers, sous-officiers, et soldats de la milice et de la gendarmerie, fixera le taux des pensions, celui des gratifications accordées aux militaires infirmes et celui des secours.

IX.—*Dispositions Générales.*

Art. 81. La division du territoire de la province en douze districts de recrutement, conformément aux dispositions de l'Article 8, est établie par une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général rendue dans la forme d'un règlement d'administration publique.

Elle est provisoirement déterminée par le Titre I du Règlement Provisoire ci-annexé.

Art. 82. Conformément aux dispositions du Chapitre I^er^, Article 7, les officiers subalternes de la milice sont nommés par le Gouverneur-Général agissant en vertu de la délégation permanente de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Art. 83. Les conditions de l'avancement dans les cadres permanents et non-permanents de la milice seront fixées par une loi spéciale. Elles sont provisoirement déterminées par le Titre II du Règlement Provisoire ci-annexé.

Art. 84. Les officiers et sous-officiers de nationalité étrangère admis dans la milice par l'application de l'Article 7, sont liés au service par des contrats établis conformément aux dispositions du Chapitre XI, Article 20.

Art. 85. La possession des grades, pour les officiers indigènes de la milice, est entourée des garanties stipulées au Chapitre XI, Article 21 et 22.

Il est fait application aux sous-officiers et caporaux de la milice des dispositions prescrites au Chapitre XI, Article 23.

Art. 86. Les dispositions relatives au casernement feront l'objet d'une loi provinciale.

Jusqu'à nouvel ordre, les miliciens présents au drapeau demeureront logés chez l'habitant.

Art. 87. Les armes appartenant aux deux bataillons de milice de chaque district ainsi que les effets d'habillement et d'équipement sont ordinairement déposés dans un magasin spécial placé sous la surveillance du Commandant Militaire du district.

Les miliciens ne sont pas autorisés à emporter leurs effets et leurs armes dans leurs foyers. Il ne pourra être fait exception à cette règle que sur un ordre spécial du Gouverneur-Général, pour permettre certains exercices de tir organisés par les soins des sociétés de gymnastique.

Art. 88. Toute la liberté compatible avec le bien du service est laissée aux hommes de la milice pour l'exécution de leurs devoirs religieux.

Art. 89. La milice n'a pas de drapeaux. Il pourra être fait usage de fanions de bataillon de couleurs variées destinés à les distinguer entre eux. Ces fanions ne portent pas de signes particuliers autres que les numéros des bataillons.

Il ne pourra, en aucun cas, y être ajouté d'insignes ayant un caractère religieux.

Art. 90. La valeur d'une organisation militaire ne pouvant être appréciée, dans

son ensemble et dans ses détails, qu'après expérience, le Gouverneur-Général est autorisé, après un délai de deux ans à partir de la promulgation du présent Statut, à proposer à l'Assemblée Provinciale les modifications jugées nécessairement dans la rédaction de ce Chapitre. Ces modifications, s'il y a lieu, feront l'objet d'une loi provinciale.

Disposition Transitoire.

Art. 91. Jusqu'à la promulgation d'un Code Pénal Militaire et de règlements tactiques et de service spéciaux à la province, il sera fait usage, dans la milice et dans la gendarmerie, du Code Pénal Militaire en vigueur dans l'armée Ottomane et des règlements actuellement en service dans les corps de volontaires créés depuis la paix.

Annexe au Chapitre XII.

Règlement Provisoire de la Milice.

I.—*Districts de Recrutement.*

Article 1^er^. Conformément aux dispositions du Chapitre XII, Article 8, le territoire de la province est divisé en douze districts de recrutement correspondant, deux par deux, à chacun des six départements.

Ces districts comprennent :—

1. Le canton de Philippopoli (nord),
2. Les cantons de Philippopoli (sud) et de Rahova,
3. „ de Tatar-Bazardjik et d'Ichtiman,
4. „ de Panagurichte et de Karlova,
5. „ de Kézanlik et de Kalofer,
6. „ d'Eski-Zaghra et de Tchirpan,
7. „ de Yéni-Zaghra et de Slivno,
8. „ de Yamboli et de Kizil-Yénidjé,
9. „ d'Harmanli,
10. „ de Hasskeuï et de Gabrova,
11. „ d'Aïdos et de Karnabat,
12. „ de Bourgas.

Les chefs-lieux des districts sont :—

Pour le 1^er^ Philippopoli,
„ 2^e^ Philippopoli,
„ 3^e^ Tatar-Bazardjik,
„ 4^e^ Karlova,
„ 5^e^ Kézanlik,
„ 6^e^ Eski-Zaghra,
„ 7^e^ Slivno,
„ 8^e^ Yamboli,
„ 9^e^ Harmanli,
„ 10^e^ Hasskeuï,
„ 11^e^ Aïdos,
„ 12^e^ Bourgas.

Art. 2. Un officier supérieur ou capitaine est placé à la tête de chacun des districts de recrutement.

Cet officier exerce une direction permanente sur les opérations relatives à l'instruction, à la mobilisation, et à l'administration militaires dans le district ; il est en outre Commandant du bataillon de milice du premier ban et Président du Conseil d'Administration de ce bataillon et de celui du deuxième ban.

En cas de mobilisation, il est remplacé, dans ces fonctions de Commandant Militaire du district, par le Capitaine commandant la compagnie présente.

Il exerce un contrôle et une direction de tous les instants sur le sergent-major de district chargé du service du recrutement dans le district.

Art. 3. Le sergent-major de district est chargé, sous la direction immédiate du Commandant Militaire du district, de tout ce qui est relatif à l'exécution du service de recrutement ; il assiste aux opérations du tirage au sort et de la révision, établit et tient à jour le registre-matricule et rédige les certificats d'exemption, de dispense,

d'ajournement et de sursis signés par le Commandant Militaire du district; il prépare les ordres individuels d'appel, et entretient une correspondance suivie avec les Maires pour l'inscription des changements de résidence des miliciens.

Il est assisté dans son service par un caporal et un milicien secrétaires.

II.—*Hiérarchie.—Avancement.*

Art. 4. La hiérarchie militaire, dans la milice, se compose des grades ci-après :—

Caporal ou brigadier ; sergent ou maréchal-des-logis ; sergent-major ou maréchal-des-logis chef ; adjutant sous-officier ; sous-lieutenant ; lieutenant ; capitaine ; chef de bataillon ou major ; lieutenant-colonel ; colonel ; général de brigade ; et, éventuellement, général de division.

Art. 5. L'avancement à tous les grades dans la milice roule sur deux catégories différentes, celle des cadres permanents et celle de cadres non permanents.

Tous les officiers, caporaux, et soldats concourent entre eux pour l'avancement dans ces deux catégories.

Art. 6. Dans les cadres permanents :—

Nul ne peut être promu caporal ou brigadier s'il n'a servi six mois au moins comme soldat ; nul ne peut être promu sergent ou maréchal-des-logis s'il n'a servi six mois au moins comme caporal ou brigadier ; nul ne peut être promu sergent-major ou maréchal-des-logis chef s'il n'a servi un an au moins comme sergent ou comme maréchal-des-logis ; nul ne peut être promu adjudant s'il n'a servi au moins trois ans, dont dix-huit mois comme sous-officier ; nul ne peut être promu sous-lieutenant s'il n'a servi deux ans au moins comme sous-officier ; nul ne peut être promu lieutenant s'il n'a servi deux ans ou moins comme sous-lieutenant ; nul ne peut être promu capitaine s'il n'a servi deux ans au moins comme lieutenant.

Art. 7. Dans les cadres non permanents :—

Nul ne peut être promu caporal s'il n'a figuré pendant un an au moins sur les contrôles d'un bataillon de milice, et s'il n'a entièrement fini son instruction bi-mensuelle ; nul ne peut être promu sergent s'il n'a servi un an ou moins comme caporal, et s'il n'a pris part, avec ce grade, à une manœuvre annuelle ; nul ne peut être promu sergent-major s'il n'a servi un an ou moins comme sergent, s'il n'a fait un stage d'instruction d'un mois au moins à son bataillon (Chapitre XII, Article 48), et s'il n'a pris part, comme sous-officier, à une manœuvre annuelle ; nul ne peut être promu sous-lieutenant s'il n'a servi deux ans au moins comme sous-officier, s'il n'a fait un stage d'instruction de deux mois au moins au Bataillon-école (Chapitre XII, Article 53), et s'il n'a pris part à deux manœuvres annuelles ; nul ne peut être promu lieutenant s'il n'a servi trois ans au moins comme sous-lieutenant, et s'il n'a fait, dans ce grade, un stage d'instruction de deux mois au moins au Bataillon-école ; nul ne peut être promu capitaine s'il n'a servi trois ans au moins comme lieutenant, et s'il n'a fait, dans ce grade, un stage d'instruction de deux mois au moins au Bataillon-école.

Art. 8. Tout soldat, caporal, sous-officier ou officier, qui quitte le service après avoir servi deux ans au moins dans les cadres permanents peut être immédiatement promu au grade supérieur, pour servir dans les cadres non permanents.

Le temps de service exigé pour la promotion aux différents grades d'officier dans les cadres non permanents est réduit de moitié pour tous les anciens officiers démissionnaires, à la condition qu'ils aient servi deux ans au moins comme officiers dans les cadres permanents.

Art. 9. Les caporaux, brigadiers, sergents, et maréchaux-des-logis, sont nommés par les Chefs de bataillon dans leur bataillon ; les sergents-majors—y compris les sergents-majors de districts, les maréchaux-des-logis Chefs, et les adjudants—par le Commandant de milice et de la gendarmerie, sur la proposition des Chefs de bataillon ou des Commandants Militaires de district ; les officiers, par le Gouverneur-Général.

Art. 10. Les propositions pour les différents grades d'officiers sont faites annuellement, après l'achèvement des manœuvres ; les candidats proposés sont envoyés aussitôt après au Bataillon-école pour y faire leur stage d'instruction.

A l'expiration de ce stage ils subissent un examen devant une Commission composée du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, de trois officiers supérieurs, dont le Commandant du Bataillon-école et du Capitaine de compagnie, d'escadron, ou de batterie sous les ordres duquel le candidat a servi au Bataillon-école. Cette Commission établit le Tableau de classement, qui est valable pour toute l'année.

Art. 11. Par exception à cette disposition, les officiers et sous-officiers employés dans le cadre permanent du Bataillon-école sont classés sans examen sur le Tableau établi par la Commission.

Art. 12. Les dispositions prescrites aux Articles 6 et 7 ci-dessus ne sont pas obligatoires pendant la période d'organisation.

Le Gouverneur-Général conserve d'ailleurs, en tous temps, le droit de nommer, après avoir pris l'avis de la Commission, tout candidat étranger ayant donné des preuves d'aptitude et offrant des garanties exceptionnelles de capacité, à la condition que le chiffre des officiers étrangers ne dépasse pas le cinquième de l'effectif total des officiers de la milice.

Ces nominations doivent d'ailleurs être toujours faites dans les conditions stipulées au Chapitre XIII, Article 20.

Art. 13. Tout officier de la milice, indigène ou étranger, est soumis, après son admission dans l'un ou l'autre des corps de la milice, aux conditions d'ancienneté indiquées ci-dessus.

Il ne peut y être fait exception qu'en cas de guerre ou pour action d'éclat constatée par la mise à l'ordre du jour de la milice.

Art. 14. Les récompenses provinciales accordées aux hommes de troupe et aux officiers de la milice sont les mêmes que celles indiquées à l'Article 10 du Règlement Provisoire de la Gendarmerie.

Art. 15. La hiérarchie des membres du corps de santé militaire comprend trois grades d'officier, savoir :—

Médecin-Major, grade de Capitaine.
Médecin Aide-Major de 1re Classe, grade de lieutenant.
Médecin Aide-Major de 2e Classe, grade de sous-lieutenant.
Celle des infirmiers comprend quatre classes, savoir :—
Infirmier-Major, grade de sergent-major.
Infirmier-Major de 1re Classe, grade de sergent.
Infirmier-Major de 2e Classe, grade de caporal.
Infirmier-Major de 3e Classe, grade de soldat.

Art. 16. Les conditions d'ancienneté imposées pour l'avancement aux différents grades d'officiers du corps de santé militaire sont les mêmes que celles en vigueur pour les officiers de la milice, avec cette réserve que nul ne peut être promu officier dans le corps de santé militaire s'il n'a terminé ses études médicales et s'il n'a le diplôme de médecin.

III.—*Solde.—Indemnités.*

Art. 17. Le service de la solde a pour objet de pourvoir à toutes les prestations en deniers attribuées, soit individuellement aux officiers et aux hommes de troupe de tous grades de la milice, soit collectivement aux corps dont ils font partie.

Les prestations qui ressortissent du service de la solde sont : la solde proprement dite et les accessoires de solde.

Art. 18. On distingue deux espèces principales de solde : la solde d'activité et la solde de non activité.

Art. 19. Aucun officier ou homme de troupe de la milice ne peut jouir de la solde d'activité s'il n'est en activité de service.

Art. 18. L'activité commence, pour les officiers et hommes de troupe du cadre permanent, le lendemain du jour de leur arrivée au corps ; pour les officiers du cadre non permanent, à partir du jour où ils quittent le lieu de leur résidence ordinaire pour rejoindre, en vertu d'un ordre supérieur, le corps dont ils font partie ou le Bataillon-école.

Les sous-officiers, caporaux, et soldats du cadre non permanent n'ont droit à aucune solde, même pendant la durée de leur temps de service effectif à leur corps ou au Bataillon-école. Cette disposition peut seulement être modifiée, en cas de guerre, par ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général.

Art. 21. L'activité cesse : pour les officiers du cadre permanent, le lendemain du jour où ils ont reçu : la notification de leur suspension, de leur révocation, de l'acceptation de leur démission, ou de leur mise à la retraite :—

Pour les sous-officiers, caporaux et soldats du cadre permanent, le lendemain du jour où ils ont reçu : leur congé définitif, l'avis de leur admission à la retraite ou, sans autre notification, le lendemain du jour où expire leur engagement.

Art. 22. L'activité cesse : pour les officiers du cadre non permanent, le jour où ils rentrent au lieu de leur résidence ordinaire après l'achèvement de leur stage au corps ou au Bataillon-école, après les manœuvres annuelles, ou après le licenciement des unités mobilisées dont ils faisaient partie.

Le nombre de jours nécessaires aux officiers pour rentrer au lieu de leur résidence ordinaire est calculé d'après la distance kilométrique à parcourir.

Art. 23. La solde d'activité, pour les militaires de tous grades de la milice qui ne sont pas liés au service en vertu de contrats personnels et spéciaux, est fixée comme il suit :—

Grades.	Par An.	Par Mois.
	£ T.	£ T.
Général de Division*	720	60
Général de Brigade*	540	45
Colonel	360	30
Lieutenant-Colonel	300	25
Major	240	20
Capitaine	180	15
Lieutenant	144	12
Sous-Lieutenant	120	10
Adjudant	60	5
	Piastres.	Piastres.
Sergent-Major ou Maréchal-des-Logis chef ..	1,440	120
Sergent ou Maréchal-des-Logis	900	80
Caporal ou Brigadier	600	50
Soldat	240	20

Les hommes de troupe de la milice, à l'exception des adjudants, sont en outre nourris et logés aux frais du budget de la province.

Ceux d'entre eux qui remplissent des fonctions hors rang peuvent être autorisés à loger et à vivre chez eux ; il leur est alloué, dans ce cas, une indemnité représentative de subsistance et de logement qui est :—

Pour les sergents-majors et maréchaux-des-logis chefs, 10 paras par jour ; pour les sergents ou maréchaux-des-logis, 8 paras par jour ; pour les caporaux ou brigadiers, 4½ paras par jour ; pour les soldats, 3 paras par jour.

La solde des sous-officiers, brigadiers et soldats des troupes à cheval est augmentée de :—

40 paras par jour pour les maréchaux-des-logis chefs ; 30 paras par jour pour les maréchaux-des-logis ; 20 paras par jour pour les brigadiers ; 10 paras par jour pour les cavaliers et artilleurs.

Art. 24. Le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie a une solde spéciale indépendante de son grade militaire et égale à celle des Administrateurs-Généraux à qui il est assimilé comme membre du Conseil Privé.

Art. 25. La solde des officiers, sous officiers, caporaux ou brigadiers et soldats employés au Batillon-école est augmentée de :—

Un cinquième pour les officiers supérieurs et Capitaines ; un quart pour les lieutenants et sous-lieutenants ; un tiers pour les sous-officiers, caporaux ou brigadiers et soldats.

Art. 26. La solde des militaires de la milice liés au service en vertu de contrats est déterminée dans les conditions indiquées à l'Article 96 du Règlement Provisoire de la Gendarmerie.

Art. 27. La solde est payée, pour les militaires de tous grades de la milice, par mois et à terme échu, à raison du nombre de journées passées en activité dans le mois.

Le mois est toujours calculé à raison de trente jours.

Art. 28. La solde est réduite à la moitié du tarif pour tout militaire de la milice qui jouit d'un congé d'une durée supérieure à trente jours, à moins qu'une décision spéciale du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie ne lui accorde, exceptionnellement, la solde entière. La durée du congé à solde entière ne peut excéder trois mois.

Art. 29. Tout militaire de la milice allant en congé est payé de sa solde d'activité jusqu'au jour de son départ exclusivement ; il recouvre ses droits à la solde entière le lendemain du jour où il reprend son service.

En principe, et sauf le cas de délégation appliqué à la milice dans les conditions stipulées à l'Article 102 du Règlement Provisoire de la Gendarmerie, la solde de congé est payée seulement au retour du militaire de la milice en congé.

Art. 30. Tout militaire de la milice qui dépasse de plus de vingt-quatre heures la durée de son congé ou de sa permission, est, sauf le cas de force majeure, privé de tout rappel de sa solde de congé.

* En temps de guerre seulement.

Tout officier ou adjudant de la milice en détention, en jugement, en prison disciplinaire ou aux arrêts de rigueur reçoit seulement, pendant tout le temps où il subit sa peine, la moitié de la solde d'activité de son grade.

Tout homme de troupe dans les même conditions est entièrement privé de solde pendant ce temps.

S'il arrive cependant qu'un militaire en état d'arrestation préventive soit acquitté par le Conseil de Guerre, il lui est fait restitution du complément de sa solde d'activité.

Art. 31. Les indemnités allouées éventuellement aux militaires de la milice sont au nombre de six, savoir :—

1. Indemnité de logement et d'ameublement (pour les officiers).
2. Indemnité de déplacement.
3. Indemnité de frais de route.
4. Indemnité de rassemblement.
5. Indemnité représentative d'achat de chevaux (pour les militaires montés).
6. Indemnité représentative de fourrages.

Art. 32. L'indemnité de logement et d'ameublement est accordée à tout officier de la milice et exceptionnellement à tout adjudant en activité qui n'est pas logé chez l'habitant ou dans les bâtiments militaires. Elle est de : £ T. 2½ par mois pour les officiers supérieurs ; £ T. 2 par mois pour les capitaines ; £ T. 1½ par mois pour les lieutenants et sous-lieutenants ; £ T. 1 par mois pour les adjudants.

Cette indemnité est payée par mois aux officiers des cadres permanents ; elle est payée par jour aux militaires des cadres non permanents, depuis le jour de leur arrivée au corps ou au Bataillon-école jusqu'à celui de leur départ exclusivement.

L'indemnité de logement et d'ameublement continue à être payée aux officiers des cadres permanents en permission dont l'absence ne dure pas plus de trente jours et aux officiers malades, en traitement à l'hôpital ou chez eux.

Art. 33. L'indemnité de déplacement, les frais de route et l'indemnité de rassemblement sont réglés, pour les militaires de tous grades de la milice, suivant les bases indiquées aux Articles 104, 105, 106, et 107 du Règlement Provisoire de la Gendarmerie.

Art. 34. Les officiers montés de tous grades de la milice sont tenus de se remonter à leurs frais dans les quinze jours qui suivent leur entrée en fonctions.

Ils reçoivent, à cet effet, une indemnité représentative du prix d'achat de chacun des chevaux auxquels ils ont droit et qui est payée conformément aux dispositions de l'Article 86 du Règlement Provisoire de la Gendarmerie.

Les dispositions des Articles 87 et 88 du dit Règlement sont également applicables aux militaires montés de la milice.

Une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général détermine, en cas de mobilisation, le nombre de chevaux alloués aux militaires de la milice pour lesquels il n'a pas été fait de mention spéciale aux Tableaux A et B, Annexés au Chapitre XII.

Art. 35. Pour la remonte des hommes de troupe du Bataillon-école, il est formé une Commission composée du Commandant de l'escadron, du Commandant de la batterie, de deux officiers des troupes à cheval et d'un vétérinaire.

La Commission fait les achats de façon à ce que la moyenne des prix d'achat des chevaux de cavalerie ne dépasse pas, par cheval, le chiffre de l'indemnité d'achat allouée pour les chevaux de troupe. La moyenne du prix d'achat des chevaux d'artillerie est fixée lors du vote du budget par l'Assemblée Provinciale.

La même Commission a qualité pour procéder à l'achat des fourrages nécessaires à la subsistence des chevaux d'officiers et de troupe en service au Bataillon-école, conformément aux dispositions de l'Article 90 du Règlement Provisoire de la Gendarmerie.

Art. 36. Tous les militaires montés de la milice qui n'appartiennent pas au Bataillon-école reçoivent, pour chacun des chevaux auxquelles ils ont droit et à défaut de rations de fourrages directement fournies par les magasins militaires, une indemnité journalière de fourrages dont le chiffre est fixée : pour les chevaux d'officiers, à 3 piastres par jour ; pour les chevaux de troupe, à 2½ piastres par jour.

Art. 37. La haute paie journalière d'ancienneté prévue au Chapitre XII, Article 60, est payée conformément aux dispositions des Articles 108 et 109 du Règlement Provisoire de la Gendarmerie.

Art. 38. Une indemnité spéciale de frais de bureau est allouée :

Au Chef d'État-Major du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, pour tout le service de la Chancellerie de la milice ; aux Commandants militaires de district ; aux officiers d'administration des bataillons ; aux sergents-majors de district.

Le chiffre de ces indemnités est fixé annuellement par le Gouverneur-Général en raison des besoins constatés.

Art. 39. Les sous-officiers des cadres permanents promus au grade de sous-lieutenant dans les dits cadres reçoivent une gratification de première mise et d'équipement fixée : pour les officers des troupes à cheval, à £ T. 15 ; pour les officiers des troupes à pied, à £ T. 12.

Art. 40. Les dispositions des Articles 114 et 115 du Règlement Provisoire de la Gendarmerie sur les gratifications pour bons service et sur la solde de non activité sont applicables aux officiers et hommes de troupe du cadre permanent de la milice.

Art. 41. La nourriture fournie aux hommes de troupe de la milice par les soins des municipalités, conformément aux dispositions du Chapitre XII, Article 51, donne droit au paiement d'un indemnité payée par le budget de la province.

Cette indemnité est fixé : pour les sous-officiers à 4 piastres par jour ; pour caporaux et brigadiers à 2½ piastres par jour.

Art. 42. En ce qui concerne le Bataillon-école et les compagnies présentes des bataillons du premier ban, l'indemnité journalière de subsistance peut être directement versée au corps qui gère ce fond spécial et assure directement la nourriture des hommes de troupe.

IV.—*Armement.—Harnachement.—Munitions.*

Art. 43. L'armement se compose : de fusils d'infanterie ; de fusils de cavalerie ; de sabres d'infanterie ; de sabres de cavalerie et d'artillerie ; de revolvers ; et du matériel d'artillerie.

Art. 44. Le système d'armes portatives adopté pour la milice est déterminé par un arrêté du Gouverneur-Général. Une loi provinciale alloue les crédits nécessaires pour faire les achats en bloc ou en plusieurs termes consécutifs.

Le matériel d'artillerie, les affûts, caissons, &c., ainsi que le harnachement, sont choisis dans les mêmes conditions et achetés dans les limites des crédits fixés par la loi provinciale dont il a été parlé plus haut.

Art. 45. Il sera organisé un magasin central d'armes, d'outils et d'effets de harnachement, ainsi que des ateliers de pyrotechnie, de réparation d'armes et de construction de voitures.

Ces établissements sont attachés au Bataillon-école ; les ateliers sont servis par le personnel spécial de la division d'artillerie et de la compagnie technique.

Art. 46. Au fur et à mesure de leur livraison au magasin central, les armes reçues seront réparties entre les différents corps, de façon que l'instruction militaire des miliciens puisse commencer promptement et simultanément, dans tous les districts et au Bataillon-école.

Les armes restant en excédant, dans chaque district, après la distribution aux hommes des compagnies présentes et aux hommes appelés, sont déposées dans le magasin d'armement du district.

Art. 47. Les Commandants Militaires de district exercent un contrôle spécial sur le magasin d'armement.

Ils en surveillent l'entretien et dirigent le travail des ouvriers-armuriers attachés à l'Etat-Major du district.

Ils s'assurent qu'il n'est mis en service que des armes en bon état et en passent fréquemment l'inspection ; ils en surveillent la réintégration et n'autorisent les miliciens à les emporter chez eux qu'en vertu d'ordres spéciaux du Gouverneur-Général.

Art. 48. En principe, le magasin d'armement de chaque district de recrutement doit contenir un nombre d'armes au moins égal à l'effectif des deux bataillons mobilisés et de la section de dépôt du district.

Il doit s'y trouver également, en permanence, les bâts et effets de harnachement nécessaires pour la mise immédiate en service, en cas de mobilisation, des cinquante animaux de bât qui constituent le train spécial à chaque bataillon, et une réserve d'outils de pionniers suffisante pour faire le chargement de seize animaux de bât employés, dans chaque bataillon mobilisé, au transport des outils.

Art. 49. Les munitions d'exercice et de guerre sont, autant que possible, préparées par les soins de la section d'artificiers du Bataillon-école.

Les cartouches chargées sont déposées dans un magasin spécial qui alimente les petits dépôts de munitions attachés au magasin d'armement de chaque district.

Il n'est délivré de cartouches de tir ou de cartouches à blanc aux miliciens rentrant dans leurs foyers que dans les conditions indiquées au dernier alinéa de l'Article 47 ci-dessus.

Art. 50. Le matériel d'artillerie en service ordinaire au Bataillon-école se compose seulement d'une demi-batterie de quatre pièces. Le matériel d'artillerie et les effets de harnachement en excédant sont déposés au magasin central d'armement de la milice placé sous la surveillance des officiers d'artillerie et du Commandant du Bataillon-école.

V.—*Habillement.—Equipement.*

Art. 51. La tenue des hommes d'infanterie de la milice est la suivante :—

Tunique-vareuse en drap noir du pays, avec poches et col rabattu, et deux rangs de six boutons en cuivre uni, serrée derrière par une patte à deux boutons. Parements et col en drap de fond ; sur le devant du col, pattes en drap rouge fixées par un bouton. Pattes d'épaules en drap rouge portant le numéro du bataillon imprimé en jaune.

Pantalon de même étoffe que la tunique.

Bottes montantes portées par dessus le pantalon.

Capote en drap gris du pays, avec un rang de six boutons en cuivre uni, pattes d'épaules en drap rouge portant le numéro du bataillon et pattes en drap rouge fixées sur le devant du col par un bouton ; serrée derrière par une patte à deux boutons.

Art. 52. La tenue des hommes de cavalerie est la suivante :

Tunique-blouse en drap noir du pays, avec un rang de six boutons blancs unis et un col rabattu portant, sur le devant, deux pattes en drap bleu fixées chacune par un bouton ; serrée à la taille par un cordon intérieur et passepoilée de bleu sur toutes les bordures. Pattes d'épaules en drap bleu doublé de noir ; parements en drap de fond, taillés en pointe et fixés par un bouton.

Pantalon de même étoffe que la tunique, avec une large bande en drap bleu.

Bottes montantes, à éperons, portées par dessus le pantalon.

Ceinture bleue portée par dessus la tunique.

Capote en drap gris du pays avec un rang de six boutons blancs unis, pattes d'épaules en drap bleu et serrée à la taille par une patte à deux boutons ; collet rabattu portant, sur le devant, deux pattes en drap bleu fixées chacune par un bouton.

Art. 53. La tenue des hommes d'artillerie est semblable à celles des hommes de la cavalerie avec cette différence que la tunique et le pantalon ont un passepoil en drap rouge, que les boutons sont en cuivre uni, et que les pattes cousues sur le col de la tunique et de la capote sont en drap noir passepoilé de rouge. Ils portent en outre la ceinture à bandes rouges et noires alternées.

Art. 54. La tenue des hommes de la compagnie technique est semblable à celle des soldats d'infanterie, avec cette différence que les pattes d'épaules et celles cousues sur le devant du col de la tunique et de la capote sont en drap amaranthe.

Art. 55. Les hommes de troupe employés à titre permanent au Bataillon-école portent, sur la patte d'épaules, au lieu d'un numéro, les lettres initiales des mots, "Bataillon-école."

Art. 56. Les grades sont marqués :—

Pour les caporaux et brigadiers, par une double tresse en laine blanche cousue transversalement sur la patte d'épaule ; pour les sergents et maréchaux des logis, par un galon d'or ou d'argent posé sur le haut du col et des parements de manches et par une triple tresse en laine blanche cousue transversalement sur la patte d'épaule ; pour les sergents-majors et maréchaux des logis chefs, par un galon d'or ou d'argent au col et aux manches, et par un galon de métal de même largeur posé sur la patte d'épaules.

Art. 57. Les officiers de la milice ont un uniforme de même modèle que celui de leurs hommes. Ils portent les boutons dorés ou argentés et ont, comme insigne particulier, des pattes d'épaules en or ou en argent sur lesquelles les grades sont marqués par des étoiles en argent ou en or.

Par exception, les officiers de l'artillerie et du génie ont le col de la tunique en velours noir bordé d'un passepoil, rouge pour l'artillerie et amaranthe pour le génie.

Art. 58. En été, les officiers et les hommes de troupe de la milice remplacent la tunique en drap par une blouse ou veste en toile blanche, avec pattes d'épaules en drap de la couleur spéciale à chaque arme.

Art. 59. Les effets d'équipement des hommes d'infanterie de la milice se composent :—

D'un kalpak bas, en peau de mouton noir frisé, avec dessus en drap rouge, orné, sur le devant, d'un écusson en cuivre avec l'inscription, "Milice Locale ;" d'un ceinturon avec porte-baïonnette en cuir noir ; d'une giberne et d'une cartouchière en cuir noir.

Art. 60. Les effets d'équipement des hommes de cavalerie se composent: d'un kalpak haut, en peau de mouton noir frisé, avec dessus et flamme en drap bleu tombant sur le côté droit et orné, sur le devant, d'un écusson en métal blanc portant l'inscription, "Milice Locale;" d'un ceinturon avec deux bélières en cuir noir; d'une dragonne en cuir noir; d'une giberne suspendue à un baudrier en cuir noir; d'une cartouchière en cuir noir portée au côté droit du ceinturon; et d'un étui de fusil en cuir.

Art. 61. Les effets d'équipement des hommes de l'artillerie sont les mêmes, pour les canonniers conducteurs que ceux des hommes de cavalerie, pour les servants et pour les ouvriers que ceux des hommes d'infanterie.

Les hommes de la compagnie technique ont le même équipement que ceux de l'infanterie.

Art. 62. Les officiers des différentes armes ont le kalpak avec écusson en cuivre doré ou argenté et le sabre d'officier d'infanterie ou de cavalerie, avec ceinturon, bélière, et dragonne d'or ou d'argent.

Art. 63. Hors du service et pendant l'été, quand l'ordre en est donné par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, on peut substituer au kalpak un képi ou bonnet de police analogue à celui dont la description est donnée à l'Article 121 du Règlement Provisoire de la Gendarmerie.

Art. 64. Les effets d'habillement et d'équipement, ainsi que le linge et chaussure, sont fournis aux hommes de troupe de la milice par les magasins de district ou par celui du Bataillon-école.

La durée réglementaire des effets, pour les hommes du cadre permanent est la même que celle qui est indiquée a l'Article 123 du Règlement Provisoire de la Gendarmerie.

Elle sera fixée, après expérience, par le Gouverneur-Général, en ce qui concerne les hommes du cadre non permanent.

Art. 65. Un règlement spécial déterminera le mode de livraison et de réintégration des effets, ainsi que les détails de la gestion du magasin d'habillement central et des magasins des districts.

VI.—*Dispositions Générales.*

Art. 66. Il sera fait application, dans les troupes de la milice, jusqu'à la promulgation de règlements spéciaux à la province, de certains des règlements militaires actuellement en vigueur dans les corps provisoires organisés depuis l'occupation.

Ces règlements sont: règlements de tactique; règlements sur le service intérieur des corps de troupe; règlements sur le service des places; règlements sur le service en campagne; règlements sur l'administration et la comptabilité intérieure des corps de troupe.

Il y sera toutefois introduit, aussitôt après la mise en vigueur du Statut de la province, toutes les modifications résultant des dispositions du présent règlement et des dispositions organiques contenues aux Chapitres XII et XIII du Statut, notamment en ce qui concerne les mesures de révocation, de suspension, et de cassation contre les officiers et hommes de troupe de la milice, l'organisation des diverses unités, les périodes d'instruction, le système de mobilisation, et le fonctionnement des Conseils d'Administration.

Art. 67. Il sera fait également usage, jusqu'à nouvel ordre, dans la milice et dans la gendarmerie, du Code Pénal militaire en vigueur dans l'armée Ottomane, sauf, bien entendu, dans ce que ses dispositions peuvent avoir de contraire à celles du Statut.

Annexes au Chapitre de la Milice.

Tableau (A).—Composition d'un Bataillon de Milice du Premier Ban.

Pied de Guerre.

	Hommes.	Chevaux.
État-Major du Bataillon.		
(r) Capitaine ou officier supérieur commandant	1	1
Lieutenant Adjudant-Major	1	1
Officier Payeur	1	..
Médecin Aide-Major	1	1
Total des Officiers	4	3
Petit État-Major.		
Adjutant Sous-Officier	1	..
Sergent-Major Vaguemestre	1	..
(r) Sergent Secrétaire	1	..
(r) Chef Armurier	1	..
Caporal Clairon	1	1
(r) Ouvriers Armuriers	2	..
Caporal Muletier	1	..
Soldats Muletiers	25	..
Chevaux ou mulets	..	50
Total des hommes de troupe	33	51
Compagnies (4).		
Capitaines	4	4
Lieutenants	8	..
Sous-Lieutenants	8	..
Total des Officiers	20	4
Sergents-Majors	4	..
Sergents (dont 4 fourriers)	36	..
Caporaux	64	..
Clairons	16	..
Soldats de 1ère et 2me Classe	832	..
Total des hommes de troupe	952	..
État-Major du Dépôt.		
(r) Capitaine de la Compagnie présente, Commandant par *interim* le district et le dépôt	1	1
(r) Officier chargé de l'administration	1	..
(r) Sergent Secrétaire	1	..
(r) Soldats Secrétaires	2	..
(r) Ouvriers	3	..
	8	1
Section de Dépôt.		
Lieutenant	1	..
Sous-Lieutenant	2	..
	3	..
(r) Sergent-Major	1	..
(r) Sergents (dont 1 fourrier)	5	..
(r) Caporaux	8	..
(r) Clairons	2	..
Soldats (minimum)	104	..

Nota.—La lettre (r) désigne les officiers et les hommes de troupe appartenant au cadre permanent.

Les officiers et soldats de la Compagnie présente à l'exception du Capitaine qui commande le dépôt, sont versés dans les Compagnies du bataillon actif.

Les muletiers portés au petit État-Major ne sont appelés à l'activité qu'en cas de guerre.

Récapitulation de l'Effectif d'un Bataillon de Milice du Premier Ban.

Pied de Guerre.

	Officiers.	Sous-Officiers.	Clairons.	Caporaux et Soldats.	Muletiers.	Chevaux et Mulets.
Bataillon Actif.						
État-Major	4	..	..	..	..	3
Petit État-Major ..	..	5	1	2	26	51
Quatre Compagnies ..	20	40	16	896	..	4
	— 24	— 45	— 17	— 898	— 26	— 58
Dépôt.						
État-Major	2	1	..	5	..	1
Section	3	6	2	112	..	..
	— 5	— 7	— 2	— 117	—	— 1
Total général ..	29	52	19	1,015	26	59
	1,112 hommes.					

Observation.—Le bataillon de milice du deuxième ban a une composition identique à celle du bataillon du premier ban; il n'a pas de section de dépôt.

En cas de mobilisation générale, les hommes en excédant du bataillon du deuxième ban sont versés au dépôt du premier ban; la section de dépôt est alors doublée.

Tableau (B.)—Composition du Cadre du Bataillon-École.

	Hommes.	Chevaux.
État-Major du Bataillon.		
Officier Supérieur ou Capitaine	1	1
Lieutenant Adjutant-Major	1	1
Lieutenant chargé de l'administration	1	..
Officiers	3	2
Petit État-Major		
Adjutant Sous-Officier	1	..
Sergent Vaguemestre	1	..
Sergent Secrétaire	1	..
Maître tailleur (sous-officier ou caporal)	1	..
Maître cordonnier	1	..
Caporal Clairon	1	..
Ouvriers-tailleurs (minimum)	4	..
Ouvriers-cordonniers	4	..
Hommes de troupe	14	..
Cadre de Compagnie d'Infanterie.		
Capitaine	1	1
Lieutenant	1	..
Sous-Lieutenants	2	..
Officiers	4	1
Sergent-Major	1	..
Sergents (dont 1 fourrier)	5	..
Caporaux	8	..
Clairons	2	..
Hommes de troupe	16	..
Soldats de 1ère et de 2ème Classe—		
Minimum	50	..
Maximum	208	..

Nota.—Si le nombre des soldats des Compagnies du Bataillon-École dépasse 160 hommes par Compagnie, le nombre des sous-officiers et caporaux devra être augmenté proportionnellement.

	Hommes.	Chevaux.
Cadre de l'Escadron de Cavalerie.		
Capitaine Commandant	1	1
Lieutenant	1	1
Sous-Lieutenants	2	2
Total des Officiers	4	4
Maréchal-des-Logis Chef	1	1
Maréchaux-des-Logis (dont 1 Fourrier)	7	7
Brigadiers	12	12
Trompettes	2	2
Brigadier Maréchal-Ferrant	1	1
Maréchaux-Ferrants	2	2
Brigadier sellier	1	..
Ouvriers selliers	2	..
Total des hommes de troupe	28	25
Cavaliers—		
Minimum	80	60
Maximum	130	..
Cadre de la Division d'Artillerie.		
Capitaine commandant la demi-batterie d'artillerie et la section d'ouvriers	1	1
Lieutenants (dont 1 Inspecteur des Ateliers)	3	1
Sous-Lieutenants	2	1
Total des Officiers	5	3
Maréchal-des-Logis Chef	1	1
Maréchaux-des-Logis (dont 1 Fourrier)	4	4
Brigadiers	6	6
Trompettes	2	2
Brigadier Maréchal-Ferrant	1	1
Brigadier sellier harnacheur	1	..
Maréchaux-Ferrants	2	2
Ouvriers selliers	2	..
Total des hommes de troupe	19	16
Soldats—		
Conducteurs (minimum)	20	50
Canonniers	21	
Section d'Ouvriers d'Artillerie.		
Sergent-Major Chef Artificier	1	..
Artificiers de 1ère Classe (Sergents)	4	..
Artificiers de 2ème Classe (Caporaux)	8	..
Élèves artificiers (minimum)	20	..
	33	..
Sergent-Major Chef Armurier	1	..
Armuriers de 1ère Classe (Sergents)	6	..
Armuriers de 2ème Classe (Caporaux)	12	..
Élèves armuriers (minimum)	30	..
	49	
	82	
Cadre de la Compagnie Technique.		
Capitaine Commandant	1	1
Lieutenant, Chef de la Section du Génie	1	..
Lieutenant, Chef de la Section d'Ouvriers Constructeurs (*) ..	1	..
Sous-Lieutenants	2	..
Officiers	5	1
Sergent-Major de Compagnie	1	..
Sergent Garde-Magasin	1	..
Caporal ou Sergent-Fourrier	1	..
Clairons	3	..
Hommes de troupe	6	1

Nota.—Les fonctions marquées d'un astérisque pourront, à défaut de candidats militaires, être remplies par des employés civils, indigènes ou étrangers.

	Hommes.	Chevaux.
Section du Génie.		
Sergent-Major Instructeur (*)	1	..
Sergents	3	..
Caporaux	6	..
	10	..
Soldats (minimum)	40	..
Section d'Ouvriers Constructeurs.		
Sergent-Major Chef d'Atelier (*)	1	..
Sergent ou Sergent-Major Chef Mécanicien (*)	1	..
Sergents Chefs ouvriers	3	..
Ouvriers de 1ère Classe (Caporaux)	8	..
	13	..
Soldats ouvriers (minimum)	40	..

Nota.—Les fonctions marquées d'un astérisque peuvent, à défaut de candidats militaires, être remplies par des employés civils, indigènes ou étrangers.

Récapitulation du Cadre du Bataillon-École.

	Officiers.	Sous-Officiers.	Caporaux.	Clairons et Trompettes.	Chevaux.	Soldats (minimum.)
1. État-Major du Bataillon * ..	3	5	1	..	2	8
2. Infanterie (2 Compagnies) ..	8	12	16	4	2	108
3. Cavalerie (1 escadron)	4	8	14	4	101	84
4. Artillerie—						
Demi-Batterie	3	5	8	2	69	48
Section d'Armuriers	1	5	8	..	..	20
Section d'Artificiers	1	7	12	..	..	30
5. Compagnie Technique—						
Etat-Major	1	3	..	3	1	..
Section du Génie	2	4	6	..	..	40
Section d'Ouvriers Constructeurs	3	5	8	..	..	40
	25	54	73	13	175	384
		140				378
		518 hommes.				

* Il peut être formé au Bataillon-école une fanfare ou musique, composée, soit d'hommes appartenant au cadre normal du bataillon, soit d'engagés volontaires portés en excédant de l'effectif sus-indiqué; dans ce cas, l'État-Major sera augmenté d'un Chef et d'un Sous-Chef de Musique.

No. 360.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 16.)

(No. 142.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, March* 27, 1879.

THE Exarch called on me yesterday to beg me to urge on your Lordship the expediency of receiving M. Gueshoff and his companion.

In my telegram No. 120 I reported to your Lordship my interview with young M. Gueshoff on the same subject.

The Exarch said that by receiving M. Gueshoff your Lordship would strengthen the hands of the moderate party—that which was desirous of maintaining the Berlin Treaty.

I asked him whether M. Gueshoff had any powers. He replied in the negative.

M. Gueshoff would be obliged to declare the desire for unity, but what he would really ask for would be, the abolition of the Balkan garrisons, a European Governor, and the renunciation of the right of entry of Turkish troops.

I observed that this last was a new pretension. Hitherto we had heard that the suspension of the Balkan garrisons and the European Governor would satisfy the inhabitants of the province. Without entering on the merits of these demands they could be treated by the Turks as an act of administration. The last requirement would necessitate a change in the Treaty. The Exarch smiled as I said this, and dropped the subject. But he recurred to the two first points, adding a remark he had already made more than once, that the population was in a violent state of excitement, and that rightly or wrongly, wisely or unwisely, they would oppose the return of the Turkish troops at the risk of extermination.

I asked him what advantage would be gained by M. Gueshoff seeing your Lordship, if he had no power of binding the people in the event of his wishes being granted—how could we know that any concessions would produce the desired effect?

His Beatitude answered that without them there was no chance of peace. He could not, however, now answer for the people who, as recent events had shown, had emancipated themselves from the control of their leaders. The latter had wished that M. Schmidt should be courteously received and allowed to carry out his duties, but their wishes had not prevailed.

His Beatitude left me urging me to submit his views to your Lordship.

I answered that I considered it my duty to bring everything I heard or saw "objectively" before your Lordship, but I had no instructions to give any answer beyond that already communicated by Mr. Palgrave to M. Gueshoff himself.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 361.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 16.)

(No. 143.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, March* 28, 1879.

WE yesterday held our last sitting, at all events for the present, at Philippopolis.

Our first business was to go through a number of Protocols in arrear. Amongst these was the Protocol of our previous sitting, in which the withdrawal of the various reserves and the agreement on new texts had to be carefully established. We also had an interview with M. Schmidt, to give him powers and instructions to act during our absence.

After the ordinary business Prince Tzeretelew called attention to the necessity of providing for the due application of our Statute. He referred to the proposal made at the Conference of Constantinople for the establishment of a Commission of Control, and suggested the appointment of a Sub-Commission to draw up a Règlement under which our Statute was to be applied.

Bearing in mind your Lordship's telegram of the 25th instant, I stated my opinion that the views of Prince Tzeretelew were certainly deserving of consideration, but that the proposal he made would charge us with functions not provided for in the Treaty of Berlin. I had myself, on the 26th December, by order of Her Majesty's Government, called the attention of the Commission to the expediency of making provision against the possibility of disorders on the evacuation of the province. I was still prepared to discuss this question, provided my other colleagues were also authorized to do so. The suggestion thrown out by Prince Tzeretelew took a much wider scope, and, unless under further instructions, could at all events only be discussed unofficially.

M. de Kallay was of the same opinion. He was furnished with instructions to discuss the points raised by me in December. Baron de Ring, though without special instructions, considered himself provided with similar authority. The Turkish Commissioners declared, however, that the proposal of Prince Tzeretelew did not come within the Treaty of Berlin. They therefore declined the discussion.

Baron de Ring then raised the question of the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty. He said that of all the reforms projected by that Article, that of Candia had alone been carried out. He would not inquire whether or not the Creton Règlement should have been laid before us. Any omission in this respect had by this time been condoned. But as the term of our function was approaching completion, he wished to know from the Ottoman Commissioners what was likely to be done in this respect.

A rather warm discussion followed between the Turkish and Russian Commissioners as to delays in the execution of Treaty stipulations. I expressed an opinion that, although the Règlements for the other provinces were undoubtedly to be submitted to us, we had

no initiative in the matter, and that it was rather for our Governments than for the Commissioners to call upon the Porte for the execution of these provisions.

I added that, inasmuch as, notwithstanding the presence of a powerful Russian army, the stipulations of Article XIX had not been carried out in this province on account of popular excitement, the same plea could be advanced with much greater force by Turkey in justification of delays in the execution of Treaty stipulations in her other European provinces.

I also expressed my belief that the question had not been overlooked at the Porte, and that the presentation of our Statute would probably facilitate the completion of the others.

Baron de Ring replied that he had no intention of taking an initiative, but in view of the approaching termination of our labours, he merely wished to ascertain from our Ottoman colleagues if and when we might expect the other projects to be submitted to us for an opinion. The Ottoman Commissioners gave some satisfactory assurances and the question dropped.

We then adjourned our sittings till Saturday week at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 362.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 16.)

(No. 144.)
Philippopolis, March 28, 1879.

My Lord,

LAST night I learnt, on what I consider fair authority, that the Russian evacuation of the province and of Bulgaria will begin only on the 3rd May.

The Russians assert that the occupation, at all events of Bulgaria, will not entirely cease before the 3rd August.

The troops at Philippopolis and (I am told) the bulk of the Russian forces in Eastern Roumelia will embark, not at Bourgas, but march through Bulgaria and embark at Varna or return by Roumania.

I learn from the same authority (that of a gentleman whose name has more than once occurred in my private letters) that the Russian authorities intend to carry on the civil administration of Bulgaria till the 3rd August.

On this point your Lordship has, doubtless, received information from Her Majesty's Consul-General.

I cannot but think that the continued occupation of Bulgaria after the evacuation of Eastern Roumelia may encourage the discontented of the province in resistance to the authority constituted under the Treaty.

I would venture to submit to your Lordship how urgent is the necessity for the establishment of a properly organized Government in the province. The budget of the Commission is fixed only up to the 3rd May. Unless the Administration now in existence is replaced by another before that date, all government will (theoretically, if not practically) cease on that day, and great confusion will be inevitable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 363.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 16.)

(No. 146.)
Philippopolis, March 29, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the 45th, 46th, and 47th Protocols.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 363.

Protocole No. 45.—Séance du $\frac{17\ \text{Février}}{1\ \text{Mars}}$, 1879 (*7 Rébi-ul-Ewel*, 1296), *à la Maison de la Commission Européenne à Philippopoli.*

Présidence de M. de BRAUNSCHWEIG.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schepelew ;
Le Prince Tzoretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha ;
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Le Protocole No. 44, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

L'ordre du jour appelle la continuation de la discussion sur le Chapitre VI du Statut Organique : "des Subdivisions de la Province et de leur administration."

Le Président relit le premier alinéa de l'Article 47 :

"III.—*Du Canton.*

"Art. 47. Dans chaque canton, à l'exception de ceux dont le chef-lieu est en même temps le siége d'une Administration départementale, un Bailli, nommé par le Gouverneur-Général, sur la proposition du Secrétaire-Général Directeur de l'Intérieur, et placé sous l'autorité du Préfet, assure l'exécution des instructions relatives à l'administration communale, ainsi que toutes les mesures d'intérêt général prescrites, soit par l'autorité supérieure, soit par le Préfet dans la limite de sa compétence."

Le Colonel Schepelew : "D'après le projet de nouvelle organisation de la province, soumis à notre approbation, les départements seront subdivisés en cantons, qui par leur étendue et le chiffre moyen de leur population différeront peu des arrondissements ou cazas actuels. Il n'y aura donc, semble-t-il, que le nom de changé. Mais un tel changement privera les habitants des nouvelles subdivisions administratives d'un facteur essentiel de leur autonomie locale, du Conseil représentatif qui existait sous le régime précédent aussi bien pour le caza que pour le canton, et était appelé à régler toutes les questions relatives aux intérêts de l'ordre économique. Je ferai observer que ni les lois des vilayets, ni les propositions mitigées de la Conférence de Constantinople n'avaient touché à cette institution, répondant parfaitement aux besoins et aux coutumes du pays.

"D'un autre côté, l'Article 42 du Chapitre que nous discutons place à la tête de l'Administration Cantonale un Bailli, nommé par l'autorité supérieure sans aucune garantie de choix, et qui par conséquent ne sera autre chose qu'un simple fonctionnaire de police n'ayant pas d'appui moral dans ses administrés. Pourtant les lois des vilayets, notamment celle qui fut promulguée par le Firman du 30 Novembre, 1875, et les Plénipotentiaires des Grandes Puissances réunis à Constantinople en 1876 avaient jugé utile non-seulement de laisser aux habitants des cantons le droit de choisir eux-mêmes leur chef, mais encore de lui adjoindre un Conseil Cantonal, également formé par voie d'élection.

"Ainsi donc en supprimant le Conseil Cantonal et en mettant le choix du Chef de Canton en dehors de toute désignation populaire, la Commission priverait les habitants de ce pays deux droits importants, sur le maintien desquels ils avaient tout lieu de compter, et se départirait des bases même de l'organisation provinciale, à elle imposées par le Traité de Berlin.

"Je comprendrais à la rigueur que le canton, tel qu'il a été indiqué à la Conférence de Constantinople, pût se passer d'un Conseil représentatif, car dans ce cas les intérêts communaux n'étant pas considérables n'auraient peut être pas trop à souffrir de l'absence d'un organe électif destiné à gérer les affaires générales du canton. Mais l'idée de vouloir créer des cantons de 30,000 âmes, en ne donnant aux habitants aucune part même indirecte dans l'administration, me paraît difficilement admissible, vu surtout le mode de nomination du Bailli, proposé par l'Article 47.

"Toutefois je ne me risque pas à proposer à la Commission de rétablir le Conseil Cantonal dans la nouvelle administration du pays, parce que l'expérience de nos discussions m'a malheureusement démontré que je ne puis espérer trouver chez tous mes collègues le même désir qui m'anime, celui d'assurer autant que possible a la population l'exercice de son droit légitime de participer à la gestion des affaires publiques. Mais amené involontairement à faire le sacrifice de ce droit, que je continue à considérer comme une des principales conditions d'autonomie locale, je crois pourtant de mon devoir d'insister pour que la population du canton soit au moins appelée à se prononcer sur le choix de son chef par voie d'élection. Le Bailli élu pourrait ensuite être confirmé par le Gouverneur-Général.

"La proposition que je fais me paraît en tous points conforme à notre programme. L'élection du Bailli ne pourra aucunement affaiblir le pouvoir exécutif, puisque ce fonctionnaire ne saura être reconnu en qualité de Chef du Canton qu'avec l'approbation de l'autorité supérieure provinciale. D'un autre côté, abolissant les Conseils Cantonaux, nous ne pouvons pour garantir aux habitants une bonne administration que leur laisser le droit d'élire librement pour Bailli une personne jouissant de leur confiance.

"Ce serait, à mon avis, un acte de sage prévoyance de la part de la Commission que d'adopter ce mode de nomination des Chefs de Canton, car il faciliterait de beaucoup la tâche épineuse du futur Gouverneur-Général et aplanirait bien des difficultés pratiques, contre lesquelles se heurtera indubitablement la nouvelle Administration au début de son fonctionnement."

Le Prince Tzeretelew: "Je me permettrai d'appuyer les arguments dont vient de se servir mon collègue, par quelques considérations d'un ordre pour ainsi dire formel. Désireux de ne point entraver notre œuvre en élevant des objections contre les désirs de la majorité en ce qui touche la future administration de la province, nous nous sommes abstenus d'insister sur le maintien des Conseils Départementaux et Cantonaux élus qui sont le corollaire du système reconnu utile par les Plénipotentiaires réunis à la Conférence de Constantinople; ces Conseils ont existé au temps du régime Ottoman et existent encore à l'heure qu'il est. En faisant ressortir les inconvénients qui ne manqueront pas de résulter d'un ordre de choses ne donnant à la population aucune part dans la gestion de ses intérêts immédiats, nous ne désirons aujourd'hui qu'assurer aux habitants une influence légitime et nécessaire sur le choix des personnes qui seront appelées à les administrer. Il serait utile de se rappeler quelles ont été les idées exprimées à ce sujet par les Représentants des Puissances à la Conférence.

"Un homme d'Etat des plus autorisés, le Marquis de Salisbury, disait à la sixième séance plénière:—

"'On devra accorder à la population un contrôle sur ses propres affaires, et ces réformes demandées par la note Andrassy doivent être comprises dans l'arrangement à intervenir.

"'Mais on demande en outre des garanties efficaces contre l'exercice d'une autorité arbitraire et la mauvaise administration.'

"Ces garanties consistaient dans l'élection des autorités cantonales proposée par les Représentants des Puissances garantes et acceptée par la Sublime Porte dans la deuxième séance plénière.

"Ces mêmes propositions se retrouvent dans le 'minimum réduit' présenté à la huitième séance: 'Cantons . . . avec des autorités cantonales librement élues par la population dans chaque commune compétente pour toutes les questions touchant les intérêts du canton.'

"Le Blue Book No. 2 (1877) contient une dépêche de Sir Henry Elliot à Lord Derby en date du 8 Janvier, constatant que la stipulation susmentionnée n'a pas rencontré d'objection de la part de Midhat Pacha, Grand Vizir à cette époque.

"Les propositions relatives à l'administration cantonale étaient le résultat de concessions réciproques. Je cite encore le Marquis de Salisbury:

"'Les concessions d'une part à l'autre ayant été faites, après de longues discussions, nous sommes arrivés à un résultat que les six Puissances ont cru digne d'être revêtu de leur sanction.' (Séance plénière du $\frac{18}{30}$ Décembre, 1876).

"Enfin, pour indiquer les bases sur lesquelles ont été conçues ces propositions, je ferai remarquer qu'à la première séance plénière de la Conférence de Constantinople le Marquis de Salisbury déclare:—'Que le travail des Conférences préliminaires est établi d'après les bases présentées par l'Angleterre.' Le Comte de Chaudordy fait remarquer:—'Qu'il a été puisé dans tous les documents antérieurs de la question et dans les notes échangées entre les Puissances.' Le premier Plénipotentiaire d'Autriche-Hongrie dit:—'Que les motifs se trouvent en grande partie dans la note du 30 Décembre, 1875, acceptée par toutes les Puissances.'

"Les différentes opinions des Plénipotentiaires réunis à Constantinople, que je viens de citer, prouvent amplement que les garanties que nous demandons aujourd'hui ne sauraient être refusées à la population, si l'on ne veut donner à la province moins de libertés que ne lui en concédait la Conférence.

"Nous espérons donc que nos collègues ne feront pas d'opposition à un amendement au premier alinéa de l'Article 47, amendement que je formulerai comme suit:—

"'Art. 47. Dans chaque canton, à l'exception de ceux dont le chef-lieu est en même temps le siége d'une administration départementale, un Bailli nommé par le Gouverneur-Général, sur la proposition du Conseil-Général du département, et placé sous l'autorité du Préfet, assure l'exécution des instructions relatives à l'administration communale, ainsi que toutes les mesures d'intérêt général prescrites, soit l'autorité supérieure, soit par le Préfet dans la limite de sa compétence.'"

Le Baron de Ring: "Tout en désirant donner les plus sérieuses garanties de bonne administration à la population de la Roumélie Orientale, je dois combattre les arguments dont viennent de se servir MM. les Commissaires de Russie.

"Je relèverai tout d'abord la thèse soutenue par le Colonel Schepelew, qui s'est appliqué à prouver que les intérêts économiques du canton devaient être gérés par les représentants des habitants mêmes. Le canton, comme division administrative, n'a pas à proprement parler d'intérêts économiques: il n'a pas de propriétés. D'après mon projet les intérêts économiques collectifs des citoyens sont gérés soit par les communes, soit par l'administration départementale.

"L'organisation que je propose à la Commission, en multipliant les départements et en développant l'importance des communes, ne laisse plus de place à la représentation cantonale. Instituer des Conseils Cantonaux sans compétence définie, serait créer un véritable danger pour les autres instances administratives.

"Je ne puis pas non plus approuver l'election des Baillis. L'expérience des différents systèmes d'administration en vigueur en Europe a démontré clairement que les fonctionnaires politiques, agissant en vertu d'une délégation du pouvoir central ne peuvent guère procéder de l'élection populaire. Or, le Bailli, telles que ses attributions sont définies par mon projet, n'est qu'un lieutenant du Préfet. C'est comme dépositaire du pouvoir de ce dernier qu'il prépare l'instruction de certaines affaires administratives et qu'il prend des mesures en vue du maintien de la sécurité publique. Le Bailli n'a en somme aucune autorité propre et n'a d'autre mission que d'exécuter les ordres du Préfet. Il est d'ailleurs probable qu'au début du nouveau régime ces fonctionnaires seront pris un peu au hasard sur la recommandation des Préfets. On ne saurait, en effet, indiquer dès à présent les catégories de personnes parmi lesquelles ils devront être choisis. Plus tard il sera facile d'établir par la voie législative, que les candidats devront posséder certains diplômes. D'autre part il serait difficile de stipuler qu'ils seront pris parmi des personnes présentées par les Conseils Généraux; car ces corps ne seront pas encore constitués lorsqu'il faudra procéder à une première nomination de Baillis. Ce dernier système aurait de plus le désavantage de créer une veritable oligarchie dans le pays."

Abro Effendi fait remarquer qu'il n'y a pas en Turquie de fonctionnaires électifs et qu'il ne faut pas confondre les organes de la population avec les agents du pouvoir exécutif. Les membres des Tribunaux Administratifs dans les provinces sont élus par la population il est vrai, mais il ne sont pas chargés de l'exécution des lois comme on voudrait le faire pour le Bailli: ils ont voix consultative, ce qui est bien différent:—

"Je dois dire," ajoute le Deuxième Commissaire de Turquie, "que le Bailli n'est qu'un agent du Gouverneur-Général. Il n'agit que sous l'impulsion de l'autorité centrale, il n'est chargé que de l'exécution pure et simple des ordres du Gouvernement,

qui lui sont transmis par le Préfet dont il dépend. On comprend qu'il nous est impossible, dans ces conditions, d'accepter la proposition des Commissaires de Russie, qui serait motivée si le Bailli pouvait agir de lui-même. Mais comme il ne doit qu'exécuter purement et simplement les ordres qui lui sont donnés, comme il ne fait que transmettre des ordres aux Maires qui sont pris parmi les membres des Conseils Municipaux, et qui par conséquent sont de fait élus, nous ne saurions, je le répète, consentir à la modification de l'Article 47.

"Le système adopté dans le dit Article est au reste usité en France, et nous ne pouvons prétendre à organiser la Roumélie Orientale plus savamment que la France, le pays du monde le mieux administré. Je ne connais pas d'Etat où ce système existe; dans le vaste Empire de Russie est-il employé dans quelque province?"

Le Prince Tzeretelew dit que les objections d'Abro Effendi sont contredites par les dispositions de la loi Ottomane elle-même. Le Règlement sur l'administration communale du 1 Rébi-ul-Ewel, 1293, contient en effet l'Article suivant :—

"Chaque cercle communal aura un Mudir et un Conseil composé de quatre membres au minimum et huit au maximum élus parmi les habitants."

Pour ce qui est de l'impossibilité de donner des fonctions administratives à des corps électifs dont parle le Deuxième Commissaire de Turquie, le Prince Tzeretelew rappele à son collègue que dans toute la Turquie il existe des Medjliss ou Conseils Administratifs élus.

Abro Effendi répond au Prince Tzeretelew que les dispositions de la loi Ottomane que celui-ci vient de citer n'ont jamais été mises à exécution.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha ajoute que le Règlement dont il est question a été élaboré pendant le Grand Vizirat de Mahmoud Nédim Pacha, et répète qu'il n'a pas été mis à exécution.

Le President met aux voix l'amendement des Commissaires de Russie au premier alinéa de l'Article 47.

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne l'accepte.

Ceux d'Autriche-Hongrie, de la Grande-Bretagne, et de Turquie le rejettent.

Le Baron de Ring, tout en désirant trouver une combinaison qui puisse donner satisfaction aux demandes de garantie des Commissaires de Russie, n'accepte pas leur amendement tel qu'il a été formulé.

M. Vernoni vote contre l'amendement des Délégués de Russie et se réserve de présenter un sous-amendement.

L'amendement des Commissaires de Russie est rejeté.

M. Vernoni dépose le sous-amendement suivant :

"Art. 47. Dans chaque canton, à l'exception de ceux dont le chef-lieu est en même temps le siége d'un administration départementale, un Bailli, nommé par le Gouverneur-Général sur des listes dressées par les Conseils Généraux d'accord avec le Préfet, et placé sous l'autorité de celui-ci, assure l'exécution des instructions relatives à l'administration communale, ainsi que toutes les mesures d'intérêt général prescrites, soit par l'autorité supérieure, soit par le Préfet dans la limite de sa compétence."

Le Président met le sous-amendement de M. Vernoni aux voix.

Les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, de la Grande-Bretagne, et de Turquie le rejettent.

Le Commissaire de France vote pour, tout en trouvant défectueux le système proposé par M. Vernoni.

Les Commissaires de Russie votent également pour, mais ils préféreraient leur rédaction.

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne réserve son vote jusqu'à ce qu'un accord se soit établi entre ses collègues.

En conséquence le sous-amendement du Chevalier Vernoni est rejeté.

Le Président met aux voix le texte primitif du premier alinéa de l'Article 47.

Cinq Commissaires l'acceptent.

Les Commissaires de Russie votent contre, ne voulant pas donner à la province moins de droits que ne lui en accordaient les propositions de la Conférence de Constantinople et la loi des vilayets.

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne réserve son vote jusqu'à ce qu'un accord se soit établi entre ses collègues.

En conséquence le premier alinéa de l'Article 47 reste ouvert.

Le Président relit et met aux voix les alinéas 2, 3, 4, et 5 de l'Article 47 :

"Il prépare l'instruction des affaires administratives qui doivent être soumises à la décision de l'autorité supérieure ou du Préfet.

"Il est le Chef de la police dans le canton.

"Il a mission de prendre, au point de vue de la sécurité publique, toutes les mesures d'ordre que les circonstances lui paraissent comporter. Il peut à cet effet, dans les cas urgents, requérir des officiers commandant la gendarmerie et la milice dans le canton le rassemblement de plusieurs brigades ou détachements, à la charge d'en informer sur le champ le Préfet."

"Il exerce les attributions spéciales qui lui sont conférées par les lois et règlements d'administration publique provinciaux."

La Commission adopte.

Le Président relit et met aux voix les Articles 48, 49, et 50 :

"Art. 48. Il y dans tout chef-lieu de canton et dans toute ville comptant plus de 4,000 âmes un Commissaire de Police qui est l'auxiliaire du Bailli pour les affaires concernant la police générale, et du Maire pour les affaires concernant la police municipale et rurale.

"Art. 49. L'autorité du Commissaire de Police du chef-lieu du canton s'étend à tout le canton. Celle du Commissaire de Police établi dans une autre ville au rayon placé sous sa surveillance par le Bailli.

"Art. 50. Les droits et les devoirs des Commissaires de Police, ainsi que leurs relations de service avec la gendarmerie, sont réglés par une loi provinciale."

La Commission adopte.

Le Président relit et met aux voix le "Règlement concernant les attributions des Baillis," troisième annexe au Chapitre VI.

La Commission adopte ce règlement, qui se trouve définitivement rédigé comme suit :

"III.—*Règlement concernant les Attributions des Baillis.*

"*Article unique.*—Les Baillis statuent sur les affaires dont la nomenclature suit :

"1. Délivrance des passeports;

"2. Délivrance des permis de chasse et des ports d'armes;

"3. Légalisation des signatures données par les Maires et Commissaires de Police pour les pièces qui doivent être produites hors du canton;

"4. Autorisation de mise en circulation des voitures publiques;

"5. Autorisation des loteries de bienfaisance;

"6. Autorisation de changement de résidence dans le canton des condamnés libérés soumis à la surveillance de la police;*

"7. Autorisation de débits de boissons;

"8. Approbation des polices d'assurance contre l'incendie des édifices communaux;

"9. Homologation des tarifs des droits de place dans les halles, foires, et marchés;

"10. Homologation des tarifs des droits de pesage, jaugeage, et mesurage;

"11. Autorisation des battues pour la destruction des animaux nuisibles dans les bois des communes et des établissements religieux et de bienfaisance;

"12. Budgets et comptes des bureaux de bienfaisance cantonaux;

"13. Administration des biens des bureaux de bienfaisance cantonaux;

"14. Règlement du service intérieur dans ces établissements;

"15. Acceptation de dons et de legs pour les communes et les bureaux de bienfaisance cantonaux, lorsque leur valeur n'excède pas £T. 100, à la condition toutefois que ces dons et legs ne provoquent pas de réclamations de la part des familles des donateurs."

Le Président relit et met aux voix l'Article 51, en y corrigeant une faute d'impression :—

IV.—*Des Communes.*

De la Commune Urbaine.

"Art. 51. Dans chaque commune urbaine il y a un Maire assisté d'un, de deux, ou de trois Adjoints, et un Conseil Municipal.

* L'autorisation d'un tel changement de résidence hors du canton rentre dans les attributions du Directeur-Général de la Justice.

"Les villes dont la population est inférieure à 2,000 âmes ont un Adjoint; celles comptant de 2,000 à 10,000 âmes en ont deux; celles dont la population dépasse 10,000 âmes en ont trois."

La Commission adopte.

Le Président relit l'Article 52 :—

"Art. 52. Dans les villes, chefs-lieux de département, ou de canton, le Maire et les Adjoints sont nommés par le Gouverneur-Général. Dans les autres villes, ils sont nommés par le Préfet. Ils doivent être choisis parmi les membres du Conseil Municipal. Leurs fonctions sont gratuites. Toutefois il est loisible aux Conseils Municipaux de leur allouer, avec l'assentiment du Préfet, des frais de service et de représentation."

Le Prince Tzeretelew dit que si les Commissaires de Russie ont fait des objections contre la nomination des Baillis par le Gouverneur-Général, ils combattront à plus forte raison la désignation des Maires par le même fonctionnaire, car cette mesure est de nature à restreindre les droits concédés à la population tant par les propositions de la Conférence de Constantinople que par la loi des vilayets. Le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie formule l'amendement suivant à l'Article 52 :—

" Art. 52. Dans les villes, chefs-lieux de département, ou de canton, le Maire et les Adjoints sont élus par les membres du Conseil Municipal et confirmés par le Gouverneur-Général. Dans les autres villes ils sont élus par le Conseil Municipal et confirmés par le Préfet. Leurs fonctions sont gratuites. Toutefois il est loisible aux Conseils Municipaux de leur allouer, avec l'assentiment du Préfet, des frais de service et de représentation."

Abro Effendi déclare que par esprit de conciliation et pour hâter la marche des travaux de la Commission, les Délégués de Turquie sont disposés à accepter l'amendement, si leurs collègues de Russie veulent se rallier à l'opinion de la majorité des Commissaires sur le mode de nomination des Baillis.

Le Prince Tzeretelew fait observer à Abro Effendi que les dispositions proposées par les Commissaires de Russie ont eu l'adhésion de toutes les Grandes Puissances représentées à la Conférence de Constantinople sans en excepter la Sublime Porte. Le Gouvernement Ottoman a en effet admis à la deuxième séance de la Conférence que : "La commune conservera l'organisation qu'elle a actuellement." Ces dispositions n'ont d'ailleurs rien de commun avec l'Article 47.

Le Baron de Ring dit que la proposition des Commissaires de Russie lui paraît acceptable; à son avis, le Gouverneur-Général étant déjà obligé de choisir les Maires parmi les Conseillers Municipaux, l'amendement du Prince Tzeretelew n'aura pour résultat que de donner plus de relief aux personnes désignées au choix du Gouverneur-Général.

Le Président met aux voix l'amendement du Deuxième Commissaire de Russie.

Les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, de la Grande-Bretagne et *de Turquie* votent contre, les Commissaires de Russie ayant refusé d'accepter le texte primitif de l'Article 47.

Les Délégués de France et *d'Italie* acceptent l'amendement.

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne s'abstient.

En conséquence l'amendement est rejeté.

Le Président met aux voix le texte primitif de l'Article 52.

Les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, de la Grande-Bretagne, et *de Turquie* l'acceptent.

Les Délégués de France et *d'Italie* l'acceptent également, en regrettant que l'amendement du Deuxième Commissaire de Russie n'ait pas obtenu l'unanimité des voix.

Les Commissaires de Russie votent contre, en constatant qu'ils sont allés dans leurs concessions au delà du minimum indiqué par le Traité de Berlin et de leurs instructions particulières, qui leur défendent de donner à la Roumélie Orientale moins de droits que ne lui en accordaient les propositions de la Conférence de Constantinople et la loi des vilayets.

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne réserve son vote jusqu'à ce qu'un accord se soit établi entre ses collègues.

En conséquence l'Article 52 est rejeté.

Le Président relit et met aux voix l'Article 53.

" Art. 53. Ne peuvent être Maires ou Adjoints, ni en remplir intérimairement les fonctions administratives à titre de Conseillers Municipaux :—

"1. Les ministres des cultes;

"2. Les fonctionnaires publics rétribués et les agents salariés de l'Administration Municipale;

"3. Les fermiers des revenus communaux;

"4. Les entrepreneurs de travaux communaux;

"5. Les militaires en activité de service ou en disponibilité."

La Commission adopte.

Le Président relit l'article 54 :—

"Art. 54. Les Conseils Municipaux se composent de onze membres au moins et de vingt-cinq au plus, selon le chiffre de la population des différentes communes.

" Ces membres sont élus pour trois ans par les habitants de la commune inscrits sur les listes électorales pour les élections provinciales et qui sont nés dans la commune, ou qui, s'ils sont nés ailleurs, résident obligatoirement dans la commune en qualité soit de fonctionnaire public, soit de ministre d'un culte reconnu, ou qui y ont établi leur domicile depuis plus d'un an au moment de leur inscription sur les dites listes électorales, ou enfin qui se sont mariés dans la commune et y résidaient depuis plus d'un an lors de leur inscription."

Après une courte discussion, la Commission adopte cet Article amendé comme suit :—

" Art. 54. Les Conseils Municipaux se composent de neuf membres au moins et de onze au plus, selon le chiffre de la population des différentes communes. Pour chaque commune urbaine le nombre des Conseillers Municipaux sera fixé par un règlement d'administration publique.

" Les Conseillers Municipaux sont élus pour trois ans par les habitants de la commune inscrits sur les listes électorales pour les élections provinciales, et qui sont nés dans la commune ou qui, s'ils sont nés ailleurs, résident obligatoirement dans la commune en qualité soit de fonctionnaire public, soit de ministre d'un culte reconnu, ou qui y ont établi leur domicile depuis plus d'un an au moment de leur inscription sur les dites listes électorales, ou enfin qui se sont mariés dans la commune y résidaient depuis plus d'un an lors de leur inscription."

Le Président relit et met aux voix l'Article 55 :

"Art. 55. Les fonctions de Conseiller Municipal sont incompatibles avec celles d'Administrateur-Général de la province, de Préfet, de Bailli, et de Commissaire de Police.

"Nul ne peut être Conseiller Municipal de plusieurs communes à la fois."

La Commission adopte.

Le Président relit le prémier alinéa de l'Article 56 :

"Art. 56. Pour les élections municipales, les électeurs sont distribués en un nombre de sections électorales égal à celui des Conseillers à élire. Toute communauté religieuse possédant dans la commune un édifice consacré à son culte ainsi qu'une école, a droit à un Conseiller Municipal, et doit par conséquent être formée en section électorale. Si elle comprend un nombre d'électeurs double du quotient résultant de la division du chiffre total des électeurs municipaux par celui des Conseillers Municipaux à élire, elle a droit à deux Conseillers Municipaux et doit être formée en deux sections électorales. Si le nombre des électeurs dont elle dispose contient trois ou un plus grand nombre de fois le chiffre d'électeurs donnant droit à un Conseiller Municipal, elle nomme un nombre proportionné de Conseillers Municipaux, et doit à cet effet être formée en un nombre proportionné de sections électorales. Il n'est pas tenu compte d'une fraction du quotient donnant droit à un Conseiller Municipal."

Le Colonel Schepelew prend la parole en ces termes :

"Je n'ai pas besoin de vous rappeler, Messieurs, que le système électoral que nous voudrions voir servir de base aux diverses institutions du régime futur de la province, diffère essentiellement de celui que la majorité de la Commission désirerait introduire dans le Statut élaboré par elle. A maintes reprises nous avons fait valoir les raisons pour lesquelles nous jugions nécessaire de laisser à tous les éléments de la population une pleine liberté de participer aux élections, sans recourir à des combinaisons artificielles en faveur de minorités insignifiantes. Nous n'avons fait que nous guider dans ce cas sur le point de vue même auquel s'était placée la Conférence de Constantinople, et je me permets de citer ici quelques paroles, prononcées par un des

membres de cette Conférence, qui ont trait au sujet en question. M. le Comte Corti, répondant au nom des Représentants Européens aux appréhensions de leurs collègues de Turquie, qui craignaient que la division des habitants par races ne provoquât des hostilités entre les différents éléments nationaux, s'était exprimé ainsi: 'La lutte acharnée que MM. les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans paraissent redouter, pourra être une lutte électorale; il est permis d'espérer qu'elle se renfermera peu à peu dans les limites d'une compétition légale devant le scrutin.'

"Nous ne demandons que cette compétition légale, c'est-à-dire proportionnelle à l'importance numérique de chaque nationalité. Nous avons même fait des concessions importantes dans certains cas, en admettant, sur le désir de nos collègues, le principe d'un mode spécial d'élections tendant à garantir la représentation des minorités. Je suis prêt aussi à admettre, dans le but d'aboutir à une entente que les élections municipales soient faites d'après un système qui concilie, autant que possible, les prétentions opposées; mais il me paraît bien injuste de stipuler, comme le fait l'Article 56, que toute communauté religieuse possédant dans la commune un édifice consacré à son culte ait droit à un Conseiller Municipal. Je tâcherai de vous démontrer, Messieurs, qu'avec un tel système d'élection nous pouvons arriver à des résultats étranges, auquel vous ne vous attendiez peut-être guère.

"Pour vous citer un exemple, je prends une ville appartenant à la Roumélie Orientale, et qui avant la dernière guerre comptait à peu près 15,000 habitants, répartis par nationalités comme suit: 9,000 Bulgares, 4,500 Turcs, 200 à 230 familles Juives ayant une synagogue avec école; près de 40 familles Grecques possédant une église et une école; une trentaine de familles Protestantes qui ont aussi leur temple et une école; enfin 20 familles Arméniennes, répondant aux conditions voulues par l'Article 56 pour constituer une section électorale.

"Supposons maintenant que le chiffre des Conseillers Municipaux à élire par cette ville soit fixé à seize. Nous aurons donc quatre Conseillers pour les quatre petites communautés religieuses formant un total d'à peu près 1,500 habitants; les douze autres Conseillers Municipaux doivent être pris parmi les Turcs et les Bulgares. Comme ces derniers représentent un nombre double de celui des Turcs, je suppose que les Bulgares auraient à élire huit Conseillers et les Musulmans quatre.

"Tel serait donc le résultat du système d'élections proposé par l'Article 56, suivant lequel les quatre petites communautés religieuses auraient le même nombre de Conseillers à élire que la communauté Musulmane, trois fois aussi nombreuse que toutes les premières réunies ensemble. Quant à la communauté Bulgare elle serait représentée par un nombre de Conseillers Municipaux égal à celui des autres communautés, quoique le chiffre des Bulgares dépasse d'un tiers le total du nombre des membres de ces dernières.

"Je crois que l'exemple que je viens de citer est assez frappant pour vous convaincre de l'incompatibilité du système d'élection projeté avec le principe d'un équitable répartition des droits électoraux; et il ne serait pas difficile de supposer des cas où, d'après le système de l'Article 56, les représentants de la majorité des habitants se trouveraient dans la minorité au sein du Conseil Municipal.

"Pour obvier à des inconvénients aussi graves, je propose d'amender la seconde phrase de l'Article 56 qui commence par les mots: 'Toute communauté,' et finit par ceux-ci; 'en section électorale,' comme suit: 'Toute communauté religieuse possédant dans la commune un édifice consacré à son culte, ainsi qu'une école, a droit à un Conseiller Municipal, lorsque le nombre de ses électeurs est au moins égal au quotient résultant de la division du chiffre total des électeurs municipaux par celui des Conseillers à élire.'

"Les communautés qui n'atteindraient pas cette proportion pourraient être groupées ensemble en une section électorale à part."

Le Baron de Ring reconnaît jusqu'à un certain point la justesse des arguments du Colonel Schepelew: "Ma réduction de l'Article 55," "dit-il," peut, en effet, avoir pour résultat de donner une importance disproportionée aux communautés religieuses minuscules. D'autre part, cependant, je ne pourrai pas accepter tel quel l'amendement de mon collègue de Russie. Tout ce que je pourrais faire ce serait d'adhérer à une combinaison qui, en maintenant la modification proposée par le Colonel Schepelew, établirait qu'un règlement d'administration publique pourrait accorder à une communauté religieuse disposant d'un nombre d'électeurs inférieur au quotient voulu le privilége de former un collége électoral spécial."

Abro Effendi: "Nous adhérons aux idées exprimées par M. le Baron de Ring et aux raisons qui l'ont engagé à rédiger cet Article. Il nous semble injuste de ne tenir aucun compte des intérêts des minorités, et nous croyons que des minorités faibles

ne peuvent nuire aux droits de la majorité. Des minorités capables d'entretenir une église et une école ne pourraient être composées d'une ou deux maisons."

Le Président met aux voix l'amendement du Colonel Schepelew.

Les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de la Grande-Bretagne, et de Turquie votent contre.

Ceux d'Allemagne et d'Italie s'abstiennent.

En conséquence l'amendement est rejeté.

Le Baron de Ring formule le sous-amendement suivant au premier alinéa de l'Article 56:—

"Art. 56. Pour les élections municipales, les électeurs sont distribués en un nombre de sections électorales égal à celui des Conseillers à élire. Toute Communauté religieuse possédant dans la commune un édifice consacré à son culte ainsi qu'une école a droit à un Conseiller Municipal, lorsque le nombre de ses électeurs est au moins égal au quotient résultant de la division du chiffre total des électeurs municipaux par celui des Conseillers à élire. Le Gouverneur-Général de la province pourra toutefois accorder à une communauté religieuse, par une Ordonnance rendue dans la forme d'un règlement d'administration publique, le privilége de former un collége électoral spécial, même si le nombre des électeurs dont cette communauté dispose est inférieur au dit quotient. Si elle comprend un nombre d'électeurs double du quotient résultant de la division du chiffre total des électeurs municipaux par celui des Conseillers Municipaux à élire, elle a droit à deux Conseillers Municipaux et doit être formée en deux sections électorales. Si le nombre des électeurs dont elle dispose contient trois ou un plus grand nombre de fois le chiffre d'électeurs donnant droit à un Conseiller Municipal, elle nomme un nombre proportionné de Conseillers Municipaux et doit à cet effet être formée en un nombre proportionné de sections électorales. Il n'est pas tenu compte d'une fraction du quotient donnant droit à un Conseiller Municipal."

Le Président met aux voix le sous-amendement du Baron de Ring au premier alinéa de l'Article 56, qui est accepté à l'unanimité.

Le Président relit et met aux voix les troisième, quatrième, cinquième, sixième, septième, huitème, et neuvième alinéas de l'Article 56:—

"Les membres de toute communauté religieuse qui ne possède pas dans la commune un édifice pour son culte et une école sont adjoints individuellement à la section électorale de leur choix.

"La répartition des citoyens entre les diverses sections électorales est opérée par les soins de la Commission Municipale chargée de dresser les listes électorales de concert avec les Chefs des communautés religieuses.

"Il doit être, autant que possible, tenu compte de la commodité des électeurs, et par conséquent les sections doivent être tracées de manière à coïncider approximativement avec les différents quartiers.

"Toute section a une liste électorale distincte et permanente, laquelle doit être révisée annuellement. Cette liste est dressée et révisée par la Commission Municipale déjà citée, de concert avec le Chef de la communauté.

"Si, pour les opérations dont ils sont chargés en commun, s'élève un différend entre la Commission Municipale et le Chef d'une communauté, celui-là est tranché par le Bailli.

"Toute personne qui se prétend indûment omise sur une liste électorale municipale peut réclamer son inscription, ainsi qu'il est dit au règlement concernant les élections provinciales.

"Les listes électorales municipales sont conservées, publiées, et affichées comme les listes électorales provinciales.

"Les opérations électorales municipales ont lieu d'après les règles qui régissent les opérations pour la nomination des Députés à l'Assemblée Provinciale. Elles ont lieu le même jour et à la même heure dans toutes les sections électorales de la même commune."

La Commission adopte et décide que tous ses alinéas entreront non dans le Chapitre VI du Statut Organique, mais dans un Règlement Provisoire sur les Conseils Municipaux modifiables par l'Assemblée Provinciale.

Le Président relit et met aux voix l'Article 57:—

"Art. 57. Si la validité de l'élection d'un Conseiller Municipal est contestée par plus de dix électeurs de sa commune, la question est portée devant le Tribunal du

département, qui la tranche d'après les règles imposées à la Cour Supérieure de Justice pour la vérification des pouvoirs des Députés à l'Assemblée Provinciale."

La Commission adopte, et décide que cet Article fera également partie du Règlement Provisoire susmentionné.

Le Président relit l'Article 58 :—

"Art. 58. Le Conseil Municipal a par an quatre Sessions ordinaires, commençant le premier Lundi des mois de Février, de Mai, d'Août, et d'Octobre. Chacune d'elles peut durer dix jours.

"Dans le cas ou le Conseil n'a pas terminé des affaires qui ne souffrent point de retard, ou si les intérêts de la commune exigent que le Conseil se réunisse dans l'intervalle d'une Session ordinaire à une autre, le Bailli peut autoriser le Maire, sur la demande de ce dernier, à convoquer le Conseil, ou même prescrire spontanément cette mesure. La convocation extraordinaire peut aussi avoir lieu pour un objet spécial et déterminé sur la demande d'un quart des membres du Conseil Municipal adressée directement au Bailli, qui ne peut la refuser que par une décision motivée. Cette décision est notifiée aux réclamants, qui peuvent se pourvoir devant le Préfet.

"Toute convocation extraordinaire du Conseil Municipal doit être notifiée à ses membres trois jours à l'avance et à domicile."

Après un court échange d'idées l'Article 58 est adopté après avoir été amendé comme suit :—

Art. 58. Le Conseil Municipal a par an quatre Sessions ordinaires, commençant le premier Lundi des mois de Février, de Mai, d'Avril, et d'Octobre. Chacune d'elle peut durer dix jours.

Dans le cas où le Conseil n'a pas terminé des affaires qui ne souffrent point de retard, ou si les intérêts de la commune exigent que le Conseil se réunisse dans l'intervalle d'une Session ordinaire à un autre, le Maire peut convoquer le Conseil en en donnant avis au Bailli. Le Bailli est investi du même droit. La convocation extraordinaire peut aussi avoir lieu pour un objet spécial et déterminé sur la demande d'un quart des membres du Conseil Municipal adressée directement au Maire ou au Bailli, qui ne peuvent la refuser que par une décision motivée. Cette décision est notifiée aux réclamants, qui peuvent se pourvoir devant le Préfet.

Toute convocation extraordinaire du Conseil Municipal doit être notifiée à ses membres trois jours à l'avance et à domicile.

Le Président relit et met aux voix les Articles 59 et 60 :—

"Art. 59. Tout Conseiller Municipal qui, sans motif légitime, manque à trois convocations successives, peut, sur la demande de ses collègues, être déclaré démissionnaire par le Bailli. Il est en droit de recourir contre cette décision auprès du Préfet.

"Art. 60. En cas de vacance d'un siége au Conseil Municipal, il y est pourvu dans le délai d'un mois."

La Commission adopte.

Le Président relit et met aux voix l'Article 61 :—

"Art. 61. Le Maire est de droit Président du Conseil Municipal, excepté dans les séances ou les comptes de son administration sont débattus.

"A défaut du Maire ou d'un Adjoint qui le remplace, le Conseil est présidé par celui de ses membres présents qui a obtenu le plus de suffrages lors de l'élection.

"A la première séance de chaque Session, les Conseillers Municipaux nomment entre eux, au scrutin secret, un Sécretaire, dont les fonctions durent jusqu'au terme de la Session.

"Les séances du Conseil Municipal ne sont pas publiques."

La Commission adopte et décide que les trois derniers alinéas de cet Article feront partie du Règlement Provisoire mentionné plus haut.

Le Président relit et met aux voix l'Article 62 :—

"Art. 62. Le Conseil Municipal ne peut délibérer que si la majorité de ses membres en exercice est présente.

"Les résolutions sont prises à la majorité absolue des suffrages exprimés. En cas de partage, la voix du Maire ou de l'Adjoint qui le remplace est prépondérante.

"Il est voté au scrutin secret toutes les fois que trois des membres présents le réclament."

La Commission adopte et décide que cet Article passera également dans le Règlement Provisoire sur les Conseils Municipaux.

Le Président relit et met aux voix les Articles 63, 64, 65, et 66 :—

"Art. 63. Le Maire préside à l'administration de la commune, sous la surveillance du Bailli et du Préfet.

"A ce titre il est chargé :

"1. De la police et de la voirie municipale et rurale, ainsi que de pourvoir à l'exécution des actes de l'autorité supérieure qui ont trait à ces branches du service public.

"2. De la conservation et de l'administration des propriétés de la commune et de faire, en conséquence, tous actes conservatoires des droits d'icelle.

"3. De la gestion des revenus, de la surveillance des établissements communaux, et de la comptabilité communale.

"4. De la proposition du budget et de l'ordonnancement des dépenses.

"5. De la direction des travaux communaux.

"6. De souscrire des marchés, de passer les baux et biens, et les adjudications des travaux communaux.

"7. De souscrire les actes de vente, échange, partage, acceptation de dons ou legs, transaction, lorsque ces actes ont été régulièrement autorisés.

"8. De représenter la commune en justice, soit comme demanderesse, soit comme défenderesse.

"9. De surveiller les écoles établies et entretenues aux frais de la commune.

"10. Le tout en se conformant aux lois, règlements, et ordonnances provinciaux, aux arrêtés préfectoriaux, et aux délibérations du Conseil Municipal régulièrement prises.

"Art. 64. Le Maire nomme et révoque les employés de ses bureaux. Les autres agents municipaux sont élus par le Conseil Municipal, et ne peuvent être révoqués par le Maire que sur l'avis conforme du Conseil Municipal.

"Art. 65. Le Maire, comme agent de l'autorité supérieure, est chargé :—

"1. De la publication des lois, des règlements d'administration publique, des ordonnances du Gouverneur-Général, des arrêtés du Préfet, ainsi que de tous actes de l'Administration destinés à être publiés.

"2. De l'exécution des lois et règlements provinciaux, des ordonnances du Gouverneur-Général, et arrêtés préfectoriaux.

"3. De l'exécution des mesures de sûreté générale ordonnées par l'Administration Centrale de la province, par le Préfet, ou par le Bailli.

"4. De la publication des rôles d'impôt.

"5. De dresser les Tableaux de recensement des jeunes gens appelés à être enrôlés dans la milice.

"(6.) Des fonctions spéciales à lui attribuées par les lois et règlements provinciaux.

"Art. 66. Le Maire peut déléguer à un ou plusieurs de ses Adjoints une partie de ses fonctions, et, en l'absence de tous Adjoints, à ceux des Conseillers Municipaux appelés à en faire les fonctions.

"En cas d'absence ou d'empêchement du Maire, son autorité passe, de plein droit, à l'un des Adjoints suivant l'ordre des nominations. Si les Adjoints sont absents ou empêchés en même temps que le Maire, ce fonctionnaire est remplacé par le Conseiller Municipal inscrit le premier sur le Tableau qui doit être dressé d'après le nombre de suffrages obtenus et suivant l'ordre des scrutins."

La Commission adopte, et décide que l'Article 66 fera partie du Règlement Provisoire sur les Conseils Municipaux.

Le Président relit l'Article 67 :—

"Art. 67. Dans le cas où le Maire refuse ou néglige de faire un des actes qui lui sont prescrits par la loi, le Préfet, après l'en avoir requis, peut y procéder d'office par lui-même ou par un délégué spécial."

La Commission adopte cet Article amendé comme suit :—

"Art. 67. Dans le cas où le Maire refuse ou néglige de faire un des actes qui lui sont préscrivées par la loi, le Préfet, après l'en avoir requis, peut y procéder d'office par lui-même ou par un Délégué spécial, en en informant le Gouverneur-Général."

Les Commissaires de Turquie se réservent de présenter ultérieurement un Article sur la suspension ou la révocation des Maires en cas de manquement grave à leurs devoirs.

Le Président relit et met aux voix les Articles 68 et 69 :—

"Art. 68. Le Maire procède par arrêtés réglementaires ou individuels. Les premiers doivent être communiqués au Bailli, qui en accuse réception au Maire; ils ne sont d'ailleurs obligatoires qu'autant qu'ils ont été publiés. Les seconds n'ont pas besoin d'être publiés, et deviennent obligatoires dès qu'ils ont été notifiés aux parties intéressées.

"Les arrêtés obligatoires permanents ne sont exécutoires qu'un mois après la date du récépissé délivré par le Bailli. Passé ce mois, ils ne peuvent plus être annulés par l'autorité supérieure. Les arrêtés réglementaires temporaires sont exécutoires immédiatement. Mais l'autorité supérieure conserve toujours la faculté de les annuler sous la réserve des droits des tiers.

"Art. 69. Le Conseil Municipal règle le mode de jouissance, d'administration, et d'exploitation des biens de la commune, ainsi que la gestion de ses revenus, sauf la nécessité de l'approbation du Préfet dans les cas déterminés par les lois provinciales.

"Il vote les aliénations, acquisitions, partages de biens de toute espèce à faire par ou pour le compte de la commune.

"Il vote les taxes et contributions municipales dans les limites déterminées par les lois provinciales. Il vote aussi les emprunts municipaux.

"Il règle le Tarif des droits de place à percevoir dans les halles, foires, et marchés, ainsi que les droits à percevoir pour permis de stationnement et de location sur les rues, places, et autres lieux dépendant du domaine public municipal.

"Il arrête le budget municipal dans lequel figurent obligatoirement les dépenses déterminées par les lois provinciales.

"Il vérifie et arrête les comptes de l'Administration Municipale.

"Il décide, sauf approbation par l'autorité supérieure, la création ou l'extension de tout établissement d'utilité publique communale (école, gymnases, lavoirs, &c.), au moyen de ressources pécuniaires assurées, soit par des fonds disponibles, soit par l'augmentation des revenus municipaux.

"Il décide des projets, plans et devis de grosses réparations des immeubles appartenant à la commune.

"Il délibère: sur le percement et l'alignement des rues et places, et sur leur pavage et éclairage; sur la création et l'entretien de boulevards et de jardins publics; sur les conduites d'eau, égouts, fosses, digues, et ponts appartenant à la ville, et généralement sur tout ce qui concerne la voirie municipale; sur les actions judiciaires dans lesquelles la commune est engagée; sur les transactions et sur tous les contrats ou marchés qu'il y a lieu de conclure pour le compte de la commune."

La Commission adopte.

Il reste entendu que l'expression "délibère," qui est employée au neuvième alinéa de l'Article 69, est équivalente à celle de "votre" employée dans quelques-uns des autres alinéas de l'Article.

Le Président relit l'Article 70 :—

"Art. 70. Les délibérations du Conseil Municipal sont inscrites par ordre de date sur un registre *ad hoc*, coté et parafé par le Bailli. Tous les membres signent sur la minute et, si quelques-uns sont empêchés, mention est faite des causes pour lesquelles ils n'ont pas signé.

"Les membres qui ne sont pas de l'avis de la majorité qui a voté la délibération peuvent faire mentionner à la suite de celle-ci leur vote séparé.

"Copie de chaque délibération est adressée dans la huitaine au Bailli, qui la transmet dans une autre huitaine au Préfet."

La Commission adopte cet Article et décide qu'il passera dans le Règlement Provisoire concernant les Conseils Municipaux.

Le Président relit et met aux voix les Articles 71, 72, 73, et 74:—

"Art. 71. L'année budgétaire communale coïncide avec celle de la province.

"Art. 72. Le budget communale est proposé par le Maire au Conseil Municipal au moment de la Session ordinaire de Février.

"Si le budget ne prévoit pas une ou plusieurs dépenses obligatoires pour la commune, le Préfet les y inscrit d'office. En cas d'insuffisance des ressources ordinaires de la commune pour couvrir les dites dépenses, ce fonctionnaire doit pourvoir à icelles en proposant au Gouverneur-Général d'imposer à la commune une contribution extraordinaire. Le Gouverneur-Général, après avoir consulté son Conseil Privé, établit

cette contribution par une Ordonnance rendue dans la forme d'un règlement d'administration publique.

"Les décisions du Conseil Municipal concernant des dépenses facultatives sont irréformables.

"Art. 70. Si le Conseil Municipal vote une taxe en violation d'une loi provinciale ou d'une délibération du Conseil Général, le Préfet annule cette délibération du Conseil Municipal; il annule de même l'Article du budget des recettes où figure le produit d'une telle taxe.

"Si le Conseil Municipal estime que dans son arrêté le Préfet a mal interprété la loi ou la délibération du Conseil Général, visée par lui il se pourvoit devant le Gouverneur-Général, qui tranche le différend après avoir consulté son Conseil Privé, ainsi que la Commission Permanente de l'Assemblée provinciale.

"Art. 74. Les comptes d'administration du Maire sont débattus par le Conseil Municipal et approuvés par le Préfet.

"Les comptes de deniers du receveur municipal sont soumis au Contrôleur-Général des Finances."

La Commission adopte.

Le Président relit et met aux voix l'Article 75 :

"Art. 75. Le Maire peut, pour le compte d'une année budgétaire, ordonnancer les paiements jusqu'au 15 Mai de l'année suivante; les paiements peuvent être faits jusqu'au 31 Mai, époque de la clôture de l'exercice."

La Commission adopte cet Article et décide qu'il fera partie du Règlement Pro- concernant les Conseils Municipaux.

Le Président relit et met aux voix les Articles 76 et 77 :—

"Art. 76. Les Conseils Municipaux élisent les Commissions chargées de répartir entre les citoyens, sous le contrôle des Agents de l'Administration des Finances, les impôts de répartition ainsi que les taxes départementales et municipales.

"Art. 77. Les Conseils Municipaux donnent à l'Administration des avis relativement à toutes les questions sur lesquelles ils sont consultés. Ils expriment des vœux sur toutes les affaires d'intérêt local."

La Commission adopte.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance fixée au 4 Mars :

1. Le Chapitre VI : " des Subdivisions de la province et de leur administration."
2. Le débat sur la Caisse réservée.
3. La motion de Sir Henry Drummond Wolff sur les Pétitions Nos. 85, 86, 87, 88 et 89.

La séance est levée à 6 heures 40 minutes du soir.

(Signé) V. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
RING.
COUTOULY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 363.

Protocole No. 46.—Séance du $\frac{20 \text{ Février}}{4 \text{ Mars}}$, 1879 (10 *Rébi-ul-Ewel*, 1296), *à la Maison de la Commission Européenne à Philippopoli.*

Présidence de M. de BRAUNSCHWEIG.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schepelew:
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha;
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Le Protocole No. 45, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

Le Chevalier Vernoni dépose sur le bureau le projet du Chapitre VII: "Finances." "Messieurs," dit-il, "le Chapitre VII, tel qu'il se trouve défini dans le progamme de M. de Kallay, m'a paru embrasser des matières trop disparates pour être traitées dans un seul Chapitre; aussi ai-je pensé qu'il serait préférable d'en faire deux: celui traitant à proprement parler de l'Administration Financière de la Roumélie, et un autre sur l'agriculture, le commerce, et les travaux publics, qui prendra le No. VIII. Aujourd'hui je ne vous présente que le Chapitre VII."

La Commission décide que le projet du Chapitre VII sera imprimé et distribué.

M. de Kallay dépose sur le bureau le projet du Chapitre IX, rédigé par lui.

La Commission décide que ce travail sera imprimé et distribué.

L'ordre du jour appelle la continuation de la discussion sur le Chapitre VI: "Des Subdivisions de la Province et de leur administration."

Le Président relit l'Article 78:—

"Art. 78. Les Conseils Municipaux peuvent être suspendus par arrêté préfectoral pour une durée de deux mois. Dans ce cas leurs fonctions sont remplies par une Commission Municipale de cinq à dix membres suivant l'importance de la commune.

"Ces membres sont nommés par le Préfet et confirmés par le Gouverneur-Général.

"Les Conseils Municipaux peuvent être dissous par le Gouverneur-Général. Dans ce cas c'est à ce dignitaire qu'il appartient de nommer lui-même la Commission Municipale. L'ordonnance de dissolution indique l'époque à laquelle il doit être procédé à de nouvelles élections; cette époque ne peut pas être reculée de plus d'un an."

Le Baron de Ring dit qu'il s'est entendu avec ses collègues de Russie pour soumettre à la Commission l'amendement suivant à l'Article 78:—

"Art. 78. Les Conseils Municipaux peuvent être dissous par le Gouverneur-Général. Dans ce cas leurs fonctions sont remplies par une Commission Municipale de cinq à dix membres suivant l'importance de la commune.

"Les membres sont nommés par le Préfet en tenant compte de la nationalité et de la religion des habitants de la commune, et confirmés par le Gouverneur-Général.

"L'ordonnance de dissolution indique l'époque à laquelle il doit être procédé à de nouvelles élections; cette époque ne peut être reculée de plus de trois mois."

Le Prince Tzeretelew dit que les Commissaires de Russie sont en principe opposés tant à la dissolution qu'à la suspension des Conseils Municipaux. Néanmoins, afin d'arriver à une prompte entente avec la majorité de leurs collègues, ils ont fait le sacrifice de leurs idées sur ce point d'une importance pratique considérable, et se sont entendus avec l'auteur du projet sur une nouvelle rédaction, qu'ils espèrent être acceptable pour tout le monde.

Le Président met l'amendement présenté par les Commissaires de France et de Russie aux voix.

La Commission adopte.

Le Président relit les Articles 79, 80, et 81.

La Commission adopte ces Articles après y avoir fait quelques modifications de forme; en conséquence les Articles 79, 80, et 81 se trouvent rédigés comme suit:—

"*De la Commune Rurale.*

"Art. 79. Dans chaque commune rurale dont les habitants appartiennent tous à la même communauté religieuse, il y a un Maire assisté d'un Adjoint, lesquels sont chargés de la police municipale. Ces Magistrats ont pour mission de sauvegarder les intérêts collectifs de la commune ainsi que de faire connaître au Bailli, et si besoin est au Prefet, les vœux et les réclamations des habitants.

"Ils sont, au même titre que les Maires et les Adjoints des communes urbaines, les agents de l'autorité, et doivent se conformer aux instructions du Bailli, sauf recours au Préfet.

"Art. 80. Les communes rurales dont les habitants appartiennent à deux ou à plusieurs communautés sont divisées en autant de sections qu'il y a de communautés. Chacune de ces sections a un Maire et, si besoin est, un Adjoint, qu'elle élit à part.

"Art. 81. Les Maires ainsi que les Adjoints sont élus pour un an par les habitants de la commune inscrits sur les listes électorales pour les élections provinciales.

"Sont seuls éligibles comme Maire et comme Adjoint ceux des dits électeurs qui sont âgés de 30 ans au moins et ne se trouvent dans aucun des cas d'incapacité énumérés à l'Article 54.

"Les Maires et les Adjoints sortants sont toujours rééligibles, sauf les cas prévus à l'Article suivant:

"L'élection des Maires et des Adjoints se fait à l'époque consacrée par l'usage. Elle est immédiatement portée à la connaissance du Bailli."

Le Président relit l'Article 82:—

"Art. 82. Les Chefs et les Mouktars sont destitués par le Préfet pour indignité, s'ils viennent à être condamnés pour un crime ou pour un délit emportant une peine autre que l'amende. Ils peuvent être destitués en cas de manquement à leurs devoirs comme mandataires de l'autorité supérieure, ou sur la plainte d'une des communautés religieuses de leur commune. Leur destitution doit, dans ces deux derniers cas, être précédée d'une enquête faite par le Bailli.

"L'arrêté de destitution convoquera dans les dix jours les électeurs de la commune à l'effet de procéder au choix d'un nouveau Chef ou d'un nouveau Mouktar. Le Chef ou le Mouktar destitué pour cause d'indignité ne pourra pas être réélu, à moins qu'à l'expiration de sa peine, ou à la cessation de sa peine s'il est gracié, il n'obtienne du Gouverneur-Général des lettres de relief. Si le Chef ou le Mouktar a été destitué pour manquement à ses devoirs comme mandataire de l'autorité supérieure, il peut être réélu après cinq ans avec l'assentiment du Bailli. S'il a été destitué sur la plainte du Conseil ou d'un des Conseils des Anciens de sa commune, il peut être réélu de plein droit."

A la suite d'une courte discussion, cet Article est adopté dans la rédaction suivante:—

"Art. 82. Les Maires et les Adjoints sont destitués par le Préfet pour indignité, s'ils viennent à être condamnés pour un crime ou pour un délit emportant une peine autre que l'amende. Ils peuvent être destitués en cas de manquement grave à leurs devoirs comme mandataires de l'autorité supérieure ou sur la plainte fondée d'un des Conseils des Anciens de leur commune. Leur destitution doit, dans ces deux derniers cas, être précédée d'une enquête faite par le Bailli.

"L'arrêté de destitution convoquera dans les dix jours les électeurs de la commune à l'effet de procéder au choix d'un nouveau Maire ou d'un nouvel adjoint.

"Le Maire ou l'Adjoint destitué pour manquement grave à ses devoirs comme mandataire de l'autorité supérieure ne peut être réélu qu'après deux ans."

Le Président relit les Articles 83, 84, 85, 86, et 87.

La Commission adopte ces Articles en y introduisant quelques modifications de forme.

En conséquence les Articles 83, 84, 85, 86, et 87 se trouvent rédigés comme suit:

Art. 83. Pour chaque section existant dans la commune rurale, il y a un Conseil des anciens dont les membres sont au nombre de quatre au moins et de douze au plus, suivant l'importance de la commune.

Les Imams et les Chefs religieux des communautés non-Musulmanes sont de droit membres des Conseils de leurs communautés respectives.

Les autres membres, qui doivent être âgés de 30 ans au moins, sont élus pour un an par les membres de leurs communautés respectives inscrits sur les listes électorales pour les élections provinciales.

Ils sont indéfiniment rééligibles.

Art. 84. S'il y a lieu de pourvoir au remplacement d'un Maire, d'un Adjoint, ou d'un membre du Conseil des Anciens avant l'expiration de l'année pour laquelle il avait été élu, les électeurs se réunissent en Assemblée Extraordinaire pour procéder à une nouvelle élection, qui n'a d'effet que jusqu'à la fin de la dite année.

Art. 85. Les Conseils des Anciens délibèrent:

1. Sur les questions relatives à la construction et à l'entretien des édifices, fontaines, puits, citernes, lavoirs, conduites d'eau, égouts, fosses, cimetières, écoles, établissements de charité, &c., appartenant aux communautés religieuses qu'ils représentent;

2. Sur les questions relatives à la voirie, à la salubrité publique, et aux intérêts de l'agriculture;

3. Sur les aliénations, acquisitions, et partages de biens ainsi que sur les contrats et marchés qu'il y a lieu de conclure pour le compte de leurs communautés respectives.

Ils votent, dans les limites des lois et règlements, et répartissent, sous le contrôle des agents de l' Administration des Finances, les taxes et contributions à établir dans l'intérêt de leurs communautés.

Art. 86. Les matières (édilité, voirie, agriculture, &c.) énumérées à l'Article précédent, qui touchent aux intérêts collectifs d'une commune rurale mixte, sont discutés et réglés par les Conseils des Anciens réunis sous la présidence du plus ancien des Maires.

Art. 87. Le Conseil unique des Anciens ou les Conseils réunis règlent le mode de jouissance des bois, pâturages, et autres biens appartenant à la commune rurale.

Ils nomment et révoquent ses gardes champêtres et forestiers.

Ils répartissent, sous le contrôle des agents de l'Administration des Finances, les impôts de répartition de la province ainsi que les taxes départementales et communales.

Ils votent le budget de la commune, lequel, pour la régularité des écritures, doit être dressé dans les formes prescrites par l'Administration des Finances.

A la suite d'un échange d'idées au sujet du dernier alinéa de l'Article 87, il reste entendu que l'Administration des Finances aura la faculté d'envoyer dans les communes des employés qui indiqueront aux Conseils des Anciens les formes dans lesquelles devra être dressé le budget de la commune, sans toutefois exercer d'influence sur le fond même de ce budget.

Le Président relit les deux derniers Articles du Chapitre VI (Articles 88 et 89):

Ces deux Articles, adoptés par la Commission, sauf quelques modifications de forme, se trouvent définitivement rédigés comme suit:

Art. 88. Toute délibération tendant à grever une commune rurale ou une de ses sections d'une charge à laquelle il ne pourrait être fait face au moyen de parts additionnels aux impôts et taxes payés à la province ou au département a besoin d'être approuvée par le Bailli.

La même règle s'applique aux délibérations ayant pour objet des aliénations, acquisitions, ou partages de biens pour le compte d'une commune ou d'une communauté.

Art. 89. Les contestations entre sections d'une même commune sont résolues à l'amiable par les soins d'un Conseil Mixte composé de six ou de douze Anciens élus *ad hoc* par les sections contestantes.

Les membres de ce Conseil de paix sont pris à nombre égal dans les sections respectives.

Ils siégent sous la présidence du plus âgé des Chefs.

En cas d'insuccès d'une pareille tentative de conciliation, le différend est porté,

s'il s'agit d'une question de propriété devant la justice civile, s'il s'agit d'une question de contentieux administratif devant le Tribunal de Contentieux Administratif.

La même procédure s'applique aux contestations entre deux ou plusieurs communes avec cette différence que le Conseil de paix est dans ce cas présidé par le Bailli ou par un délégué de ce fonctionnaire.

Le Président relit et met aux voix le règlement définissant les matières faisant l'objet de la police municipale et rurale, quatrième annexe au Chapitre VI.

"*Règlement définissant les Matières faisant l'objet de la Police Municipale et Rurale.*

"*Article unique.*—Font l'objet de la police municipale et rurale:

"1. La sûreté et la commodité de la voie publique;

"2. Le maintien du bon ordre dans les lieux publics;

"3. La salubrité des comestibles et la fidélité du débit des denrées alimentaires;

"4. La vérification des balances, poids, et mesures;

"5. Les moyens de prévenir les accidents et fléaux calamiteux ou de les faire cesser;

"6. Les spectacles publics;

"7. La taxation des denrées alimentaires légalement soumises à une taxe;

"8. La publication des bans de culture et de récolte autorisés par la coutume;

"9. L'échenillage des arbres;

"10. La sécurité des récoltes;

"11. La surveillance des prises d'eau destinées aux irrigations."

La Commission adopte.

Le Président relit et met aux voix le Règlement concernant les dépenses obligatoires pour les communes urbaines, cinquième annexe au Chapitre VI:

"*Règlement concernant les Dépenses Obligatoires pour les Communes urbaines.*

"*Article unique.*—Sont obligatoires pour les communes urbaines:

"1. L'entretien de la maison commune ou du local affecté à la Mairie;

"2. Les frais de bureau et d'impression pour le service de la commune;

"3. L'abonnement aux bulletins, journaux, et feuilles d'annonces dans lesquels sont publiés les actes administratifs;

"4. Les frais de recensement de la population;

"5. Les frais de recrutement de la milice;

"6. Les frais occasionnés par le casernement de la milice, au cas où celle-ci est assemblée pour des manœuvres ou à d'autres fins;

"7. Le traitement du receveur municipal et des préposés de l'octroi, si octroi il y a, ainsi que les frais de perception de tous deniers communaux;

"8. Les traitements des gardes forestiers et des gardes ruraux;

"9. Les dépenses de police mises à la charge de la commune par les lois et règlements.

"10. Les pensions des employés municipaux régulièrement liquidées;

"11. Les frais d'entretien d'un service communal de pompiers;

"12. Le contingent assigné aux communes dans la dépense des enfants trouvés et abandonnés;

"13. Les frais d'entretien des hôpitaux municipaux;

"14. Les grosses réparations urgentes aux édifices communaux;

"15. La clôture des cimetières, leur entretien et leur translation, dans les cas déterminés par les lois et règlements.

"16. Les contributions et prélèvements établis par les lois sur les biens et revenus communaux;

"17. L'acquittement des dettes exigibles;

"18. Et généralement toutes les charges imposées aux communes par un Article de loi."

La Commission adopte.

Le Baron de Ring en constatant que la première lecture du Chapitre VI est terminé, demande à ses collègues s'ils ne jugent pas opportun de s'entendre dès à présent sur ceux des points de ce Chapitre qui sont restés ouverts.

Le Prince Tzereteleu dit que les Commissaires de Russie sont prêts à retirer leur réserve au sujet de la nomination des Préfets, si la Commission accepte en principe qu'il sera fait une juste distribution des emplois publics dans la province entre les

différentes nationalités et communautés religieuses, et qu'il sera tenu compte pour le choix des fonctionnaires dans chaque circonscription de la nationalité et de la religion de la majorité des habitants :—

"Le projet d'organisation judiciaire élaboré par M. de Kallay," ajoute le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie, "contient une application de ce principe à la magistrature; nous proposerons quant à nous de l'étendre à tous les emplois publics, et d'introduire dans le premier Chapitre traitant du droit public de la province, un nouvel Article rédigé comme suit :

"'Il est fait une juste distribution des emplois publics entre les différentes nationalités et communautés religieuses de la province et l'on tiendra compte, autant que possible, pour les choix à faire de la religion et de la nationalité de la majorité des habitants des différentes circonscriptions.'

"Il est bien entendu que si cette proposition est acceptée par la Commission nous adhérerons au vote de la majorité sur l'Article qui traite de la nomination des Préfets."

M. de Kallay se déclare prêt à adopter la proposition des Commissaires de Russie. Si cette proposition obtient l'unanimité des suffrages, il fera disparaître de son travail sur la justice la clause spéciale concernant la religion et la nationalité des Magistrats.

Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, de France, de la Grande Bretagne, et *d'Italie* se prononcent également en faveur de la proposition des Commissaires de Russie.

Les Délégués de Turquie réservent leur opinion sur cette question, qui reste en conséquence ouverte.

Le Président communique à la Commission la lettre suivante, qui lui a été adressée par le Rapporteur du Comité des Finances :—

"*Philippopoli, le 4 Mars,* 1879.

"M. le Président,

"Retenu chez moi par une indisposition qui me forcera peut-être à garder la chambre au moins jusqu'à la fin de la semaine, je ne pourrai pas m'occuper pendant quelques jours de l'Administration des Finances. Je vous prie pour cette raison de bien vouloir proposer à la Commission d'adjoindre un de ses membres à mes collègues du Comité jusqu'au jour ou je pourrai me remettre au travail.

"En attendant, j'ai l'honneur de vous envoyer ci-incluses les copies de deux Rapports de M. Schmidt qui me paraissent devoir être soumis à la Commission aujourd'hui même, si faire se peut.

"Le premier contient le récit d'une nouvelle manifestation populaire contre un employé de notre Administration Financière.

"Le deuxième contient simplement l'énumération de quelques demandes de crédit adressées par M. le Gouverneur de Slivno à M. le Directeur des Finances.

"M. Schmidt approuve les demandes de crédit qu'il a consignées dans ce Rapport. Mais c'est à la Commission seule qu'il appartient d'en ordonner le réglement, pusque les pouvoirs extraordinaires du Comité des Finances ont expiré le 24 du mois dernier.

"Outre les deux Rapports sus-mentionnés, j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre deux états budgétaires supplémentaires dressés par M. Schmidt, et que je vous prie de vouloir bien présenter à la Commission, pour qu'elle décide s'ils doivent être annexés au budget.

"En même temps je vous prierai de demander à la Commission de vouloir bien voter en faveur de M. Schmidt une indemnité de £ T. 100 pour frais de déplacement, indemnité que le Comité s'est depuis fort longtemps engagé à reclamer, après s'être assuré qu'en bonne justice elle était due à M. le Directeur des Finances.

"Enfin, j'ai l'honneur de vous envoyer la copie d'une circulaire qui a été adressée au Chef de l'Arrondissement de Bourgas par le Gouverneur de Slivno, et qui a été transmise à M. Schmidt par le Caissier du dit arrondissement. Comme cette circulaire démontre que le Gouverneur de Slivno ne comprend pas encore sa situation vis-à-vis de l'Administration Financière et que le Comité désespère de faire cesser ce genre de malentendus, je vous prie de vouloir bien demander à la Commission d'aviser le plus promptement possible.

"La copie de la circulaire en question est incluse dans une lettre du Caissier, qui mentionne d'autres instructions irrégulières données par le Gouverneur de Slivno. Vous trouverez également ci-incluse une traduction de cette lettre.

"Je vous prie aussi de vouloir bien rappeler à la Commission qu'elle doit répondre à la lettre de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général relative à la remise de la Caisse

réservée dite du Sandjak de Philippopoli, et que cette affaire est à l'ordre du jour depuis plusieurs semaines.

"M. le Directeur-Général comptait partir aujourd'hui pour une tournée d'inspection à Hasskoui et les chefs-lieux d'arrondissements du département de Slivno; mais j'ai cru devoir l'engager à remettre son voyage de quelques jours encore jusqu'au retour de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général, qui se trouve en ce moment à Andrinople. Il me parait en effet nécessaire, pour les raisons que vous connaissez, de faire connaître d'avance à M. le Gouverneur-Général l'itinéraire de M. Schmidt et de donner à son Excellence le temps de prendre des mesures pour empêcher toute manifestation sur le partage de notre Directeur des Finances. Plus que jamais, du reste, je suis persuadé qu'une foule d'irrégularités dont notre Administration souffre dans le département de Slivno ne pourront être efficacement combattues que sur les lieux par M. Schmidt en personne.

"Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) "G. DE COUTOULY."

"*Rapport au Comité des Finances.*

"*Philippopoli, le* $\frac{19 \text{ Février}}{3 \text{ Mars}}$, 1879.

"Messieurs,

"J'ai appris dernièrement que dans les environs de Philippopoli il se commettait fréquemment de grandes irrégularités et de nombreux abus pour tout ce qui concerne la contrebande et la perception des impôts.

"Pour remédier à cet état de choses, j'ai cru devoir attacher au service de l'Administration quelques employés chargés spécialement de combattre la contrebande et de surveiller l'application des règlements et lois sur la perception des impôts.

"Parmi ces employés se trouve le nommé Georges Stoyanoff, que j'ai chargé d'inspecter tout ce qui concerne les Contributions Indirectes et particulièrement les manufactures de tabac dans le Canton de Karadja-Dagh ou Tzernogorsko.

"A cet effet, j'avais remis à ce fonctionnaire une lettre d'introduction à l'adresse du Natchalnik résidant à Abrachilar. Après avoir pris connaissance de ma lettre, celui-ci présenta Samedi dernier M. Stoyanoff au Conseil des Anciens du dit canton par le moyen d'une lettre ouverte, dans laquelle il leur indiquait le but de sa mission.

"La nouvelle de l'arrivée de M. Stoyanoff s'était vite répandue en ville. Le lendemain Dimanche, au moment où il sortait de l'église, une foule compacte qui l'attendait déjà dehors l'apostropha en lui intimant l'ordre formel de quitter immédiatement la ville, sous peine de sévices contre sa personne.

"M. Stoyanoff ne voulut pas céder à la menace, il réclama l'intervention du Natchalnik, lequel se trouvait en ce moment à côté de lui, mais ce fonctionnaire lui fit remarquer qu'il ne pouvait pas le protéger, et que toute tentative de résistance les exposerait tous deux à de mauvais traitements.

"Il termina en disant qu'il était prudent de céder.

"M. Stoyanoff se décida alors à quitter la ville et le Natchalnik dut l'accompagner jusqu'à une certaine distance pour empêcher qu'il ne fût attaqué par la foule en s'en allant.

"Les derniers cris que M. Stoyanoff entendit proférer à ces gens furent :—

"'Nous n'entendons pas donner et nous ne donnerons pas notre argent au Sultan.'

"Veuillez, &c.

"Le Directeur-Général des Finances,

(Signé) "SCHMIDT."

"*Rapport au Comité des Finances.*

"*Philippopoli, le* $\frac{20 \text{ Février}}{4 \text{ Mars}}$, 1879.

"Messieurs,

"Je vous prie de soumettre à l'approbation de la Commission Européenne les demandes de crédit suivantes qui me sont parvenues de la part du Gouverneur de Slivno :—

		Fr. c.
1.	Réparation de prison à Yéni-Zaghra	400 00
2.	Entretien des prisonniers pour Octobre, Novembre, et Décembre	329 50
3.	Eclairage et chauffage de prison	63 30
4.	Supplément des frais de la Chancellerie du Chef d'Arrondissement, Karnabat.	21 10
5.	Entretien des prisonniers à Bourgas pour Janvier	231 00
6.	Entretien des prisonniers à Aidos	578 00
7.	Entretien des prisonniers pour chauffage et éclairage	183 06
8.	Frais de témoins à Kyzil-Aghatch	139 50
9.	Pour entretien des prisons à Slivno pour Janvier, Février, et Mars.	3,000 00
10.	Entretien des écoles à Slivno pour Février	937 40
		Ct. 416 66
	La Commission est priée en outre d'insérer au budget le traitement d'un Sous-Préfet à Bourgas	Piastres. 2,200
	2 Chirurgiens pour l'arrondissement de Philippopoli, à 625	1,250

(Signé) "SCHMIDT."

Direction Générale des Finances de la Roumélie Orientale.

ÉTAT Budgétaire fixé par la Commission Européenne pour Contributions Indirectes.

(a.) Frais du Personnel.

No. d'Ordre.	Désignation des Fonctions.	Nombre d'Employés.	Traitement Mensuel. Par Employé.	Traitement Mensuel. Total.	Observations.
			Piastres.	Piastres.	
1	Surveillants à cheval ..	5	500	2,500	A Philippopoli.
2	Secrétaire 2e classe	1	..	800	A Stanimaka.
3	Sous-chef	2	600	1,200	A Tatar-Bazardjik pour le bois.
4	Gardiens	4	300	1,200	Idem.
5	Idem	2	400	800	A Tchirpan.
				6,500	

(b.) Frais du Matériel.

Désignation des Objets.	Piastres.	Observations.

Direction Générale des Finances de la Roumélie Orientale.

ÉTAT Budgétaire fixé par la Commission Européenne pour Contributions Indirectes.

(a.) Frais du Personnel.

No. d'Ordre.	Désignation des Fonctions.	Nombre d'Employés.	Traitement Mensuel. Par Employé.	Traitement Mensuel. Total.	Observations.
			Piastres.	Piastres.	
	Secrétaire .. .. £ T. 25		..	..	
	Etat budgétaire .. 20		..	..	
	Augmentation .. 5		..	500	
	Commis 3		..	..	
	Etat budgétaire .. 6		..	..	
	Augmentation		..	200	
	Secrétaire interprète		..	1,200	
	Comptable à partir du 1er Mars (n.s.)		..	1,200	
				3,100	

(b.) Frais du Matériel

Désignation des Objets.	Piastres.	Observations.

"*Caisse de Bourgas, le* 16 *Février*, 1879.

"A M. le Directeur-Général des Finances de la Roumélie Orientale,

"Dans notre Rapport du 30 Janvier, 1879, dans lequel nous vous avions envoyé des états pour les mois d'Octobre et Novembre 1878, nous vous avions dit que plus tard nous vous remettrions les états pour l'arriéré de 1878 ainsi que la copie des livres, revenus et dépenses pour les mois de Décembre 1878 et Janvier 1879.

"Nous avons l'honneur aujourd'hui de vous envoyer les états des mois de Décembre 1878 et Janvier 1879. Les dépenses du mois de Décembre sont très-grandes, mais dans ces dépenses, comme vous le verrez, il y a des articles du mois de Juillet et d'Août restés impayés, et qui ne sont payés qu'au mois de Décembre, conformément à l'autorisation du Gouverneur de Slivno ou bien du Conseil Administratif de l'arrondissement de Bourgas. Nous vous envoyons ci-joint l'état des arriérés de 1878. Nous avons reçu vos lettres avec quelques exemplaires des états budgétaires que nous avons distribués aux Administrations du pays, afin qu'elles s'en servent.

"Ayez la bonté de nous envoyer cinq feuilles *personnel* pour notre Chancellerie.

"Nous vous envoyons ci-incluse la copie d'une circulaire du Gouverneur de Slivno concernant la dîme (9,046 roubles argent 66 kop.), pour les retenir en compte particulier et à la disposition du Gouverneur.

"Nous laissons cela à votre appréciation.

"Le Caissier,
(Signé) "SAVA DETCHOFF."

"*Gouverneur de Slivno, le* 8 *Février*, 1879.

"Au Chef de l'Arrondissement de Bourgas,

"Je vous informe que les sommes provenant de la vente des grains de la dîme aux habitants pauvres de votre arrondissement ne doivent pas être remises au Comité des Finances. Je vous invite par conséquent d'en tenir, en les remettant à la Caisse, un compte spécial et à ma disposition comme résultant des opérations financières avant le 5 Octobre, 1878.

"Le Gouverneur,
(Signé) "ZANOFF."

M. de Kallay propose d'examiner d'urgence les questions soumises à l'Assemblée par le Rapporteur du Comité des Finances, et de décider à leur sujet à la majorité des voix.

La Commission accepte la proposition de M. de Kallay.

Un échange d'idées a lieu sur l'opportunité d'adjoindre un des Commissaires au Comité des Finances, tant que M. de Coutouly ne sera pas rétabli. Lord Donoughmore devant être de retour de Constantinople dans quelques jours, il est décidé que le Comité conservera sa composition actuelle.

Le Président consulte la Commission sur la décision qu'elle compte prendre en vue des événements d'Abrachilar relatés dans le Rapport de M. Schmidt, en date du 19 Février / 3 Mars.

M. de Kallay formule la résolution suivante :—

"Le Président est engagé à s'adresser au Gouverneur-Général en lui demandant de vouloir bien faire savoir à la Commission si l'Administration est à même d'empêcher et de réprimer de tels faits et quelles mesures il compte prendre pour en éviter le retour."

La Commission adopte.

Sur la proposition de M. de Kallay, la Commission alloue ensuite à M. Schmidt l'indemnité de £ T. 100 demandée par le Comité des Finances, et décide que les deux états budgétaires supplémentaires dressés par le Directeur des Finances et annexés à la lettre de M. de Coutouly entreront dans le budget.

Une conversation s'engage entre les Commissaires au sujet du voyage d'inspection de M. Schmidt dans la Province de Slivno.

Le Prince Tzeretelew pense que le Directeur des Finances ferait bien d'attendre avant de se mettre en route le retour à Philippopoli du Général Stolipine, qui est en ce moment à Andrinople.

La Commission invite M. Schmidt à partir le plus promptement possible.

A la suite d'un court échange d'idées, les Commissaires tombent d'accord pour remettre jusqu'au retour de M. Schmidt l'examen des lettres du Caissier de Bourgas et du Gouverneur de Slivno, dont le Président vient de donner lecture.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, et sur la proposition de Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, met à l'ordre du jour d'une séance extraordinaire fixée au 5 Mars :—

1. Le débat sur la Caisse réservée ;
2. La motion faite par Sir Henry Drummond Wolff au sujet des Pétitions Nos. 85, 86, 87, 88, et 89.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance fixée au 8 Mars :—

1. Le Chapitre IX : "des Autorités Judiciaires ;"
2. Le Chapitre VII : "Finances."

La séance est levée à 6 heures 50 minutes.

(Signé) V. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
RING.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.

Inclosure 3 in No. 363.

Protocole No. 47.—Séance Extraordinaire du $\frac{21}{5}$ *Février/Mars*, 1879 (11 *Rébi-ul-Ewel*, 1296), *à la Maison de la Commission Européenne à Philippopoli.*

Présidence de Son Excellence le BARON DE RING.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schepelew,
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.
Le Protocole de la dernière séance, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff propose à la Commission de demander au Gouverneur-Général :—

1. Communication de toutes les sommes entrées dans la Caisse du Sandjak de Philippopoli provenant des revenus de la Roumélie Orientale ;
2. Le compte détaillé et certifié des dépenses faites avant et après le $\frac{5}{17}$ Octobre sur ces sommes, à partir des Décrets par lesquels les crédits ont été ouverts sur la Caisse du Sandjak de Philippopolis ;
3. Communication en copie ou en analyse des Décrets en vertu desquels ces dépenses ont été effectuées ;
4. Remise du solde actuel de la caisse ;
5. Communication des Décrets en vertu desquels des dépenses sur ce solde devront encore être effectuées à l'avenir par les soins de l'Administration Financière de la Roumélie Orientale.

Après un échange d'idées, la Commission charge son Président d'adresser à ce sujet une lettre au Gouverneur-Général.

Sur l'observation du *Colonel Schepelew*, il demeure entendu que pour tous les actes antérieurs à la Résolution du $\frac{5}{17}$ Octobre les pièces justificatives fournies par l'autorité locale ne le seront qu'à titre de renseignements pour la régularité des comptes.

Sur la proposition du Baron de Ring, la Commission décide en outre de voter à la majorité des voix sur les questions à l'ordre du jour.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff annonce qu'il a appris par M. Schmidt que le Gouverneur de Slivno avait ordonné dans son département des dépenses non autorisées par la Commission. Ce fonctionnaire aurait opéré en outre certains paiements se rapportant à des dépenses qui remontaient aux mois de Juillet et d'Août.

Le Colonel Schepelew croit devoir attribuer ces irrégularités au retard que la dernière circulaire du Gouverneur-Général aura sans doute mis à parvenir à Slivno.

Le Président dit que M. Schmidt l'a prévenu qu'il partirait Samedi pour Hasskeui d'où il se rendrait à Yéni-Zaghra, Slivno, et Bourgas : "Si la Commission le désire, j'écrirai," dit il, "au Gouverneur-Général pour lui indiquer l'itinéraire que compte suivre M. Schmidt."

La Commission prie le Baron de Ring d'avertir le Général Stolipine du voyage du Directeur des Finances.

M. Vernoni fait remarquer que les télégrammes annonçant le départ de M. Schmidt pouvant s'égarer ou ne point parvenir à temps aux autorités compétentes, il serait bon de demander à son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général de remettre au Directeur-Général lui-même les ordres le concernant, qui seront adressés aux différents fonctionnaires.

A la suite d'une conversation entre les Commissaires et sur la proposition de Sir Drummond Wolff, la Commission décide que son Président est prié d'adresser une lettre à son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général pour lui communiquer le rapport de M. Schmidt sur les incidents d'Abrachilar. Dans cette lettre le Baron de Ring demandera au Gouverneur-Général de vouloir bien prendre des mesures pour empêcher le retour de semblables faits.

Abro Effendi propose de charger le Président de vouloir bien se mettre en communication avec son Excellence le Général Stolipine pour le prier de donner suite aux demandes qui lui ont été adressées par son Excellence Assim Pacha dans une lettre en date du 11 Février, 1879.

Le Baron de Ring propose à la Commission d'adresser au Gouverneur-Général une lettre à ce sujet dans laquelle il formulera les trois demandes suivantes :—

Il priera le Général Stolipine :

1. De vouloir bien inviter le Baron de Hubsch, Gouverneur de Philipoppoli, à communiquer à M. le Directeur-Général des Finances copie de la circulaire qu'il a dû adresser pour annuler sa circulaire du 8 Décembre ;
2. D'informer la Commission si les ordres contenus dans la circulaire de son Excellence en date du $\frac{13}{25}$ Février ont été exécutés et si en conséquence les autorités administratives des arrondissements ont reçu par l'intermédiaire de MM. les Gouverneurs de Philippopoli et de Slivno des instructions leur prescrivant de fournir aux employés des finances tous les renseignements que ceux-ci pourraient leur demander touchant des questions de leur ressort ;
3. De communiquer le texte des dites instructions à la Commission ou de prendre des mesures afin qu'il soit communiqué au Directeur-Général des Finances.

La Commission accepte à l'unanimité la proposition de son Président.

L'ordre du jour appelle le débat sur la Caisse réservée.

Le Président rappelle à la Commission qu'il s'est engagé, au début de la séance, à adresser à ce sujet une lettre au Gouverneur-Général.

L'ordre du jour appelle le débat sur la motion de Sir H. Drummond Wolff relative aux Pétitions Nos. 85, 86, 87, 88, et 89:

M. Séon donne lecture des comptes-rendus des dites pétitions rédigés par lui:

Compte-Rendu de la Pétition No. 85, signée par M. Comninos Billis.

Le pétitionaire, en remettant à la Commission quatre pétitions des habitants Grecs de Messembria, Achioli, Bourgas, et Souzopolis, dont il est mandataire par procuration, expose que ces dits habitants, ainsi que tous les Grecs de la province, désirent voir leurs droits et priviléges respectés au même degré que ceux des autres indigènes de la province; tandis que la race relativement prédominante, qui se trouve par suite de l'occupation Russe à la tête de l'administration du pays, voudrait l'annihilation des autres devant l'Administration et les Tribunaux. M. C. Billis demande des Juges doctes en droit et désirerait voir le Gouverneur-Général investi du droit de nommer des étrangers ayant les qualités voulues pour remplir ces fonctions. Il souhaite que la milice et la gendarmerie soient organisées par des officiers étrangers; que la province soit divisée en plus de deux arrondissements; que l'Assemblée Provinciale soit composée de membres appartenant à toutes les nationalités du pays et qu'elle renferme dans son sein des éléments conservateurs. Il désirerait voir les chefs spirituels des diverses communautés religieuses et un nombre suffisant de personnes appartenant aux hautes classes de la population et nommées directement par le Gouverneur-Général en faire partie. Pour que toutes les différentes races soient représentées, il faut, dit-il, que la population soit divisée en trois catégories électorales:

1. Les grands propriétaires, négociants et docteurs;
2. Les industriels, et les corporations de métiers;
3. Les agriculteurs;

Puis que chacune de ces catégories ait le droit d'élire le tiers des membres éligibles par la population.

Le pétitionnaire espère que les vœux des populations Grecques seront prises en considération.

Compte-Rendu de la Pétition No. 86, en date du 12 Janvier, présentée au nom des habitants Grecs de Souzopolis (62 signatures).

Les pétitionnaires exposent que les Plénipotentiaires des Grandes Puissances au Congrès de Berlin ont admis qu'il fallait prendre en considération les droits légitimes des Grecs qui se trouvent en Roumélie Orientale.

Les pétitionnaires demandent en conséquence à la Commission:—

1. De prendre en considération leurs droits et d'assurer les intérêts de leur nationalité;
2. D'assurer par le Statut Organique à la langue Grecque le pied d'égalité avec les langues Bulgare et Turque, pour tous les actes officiels ou administratifs de la province;
3. De les gratifier d'une organisation libérale du pays;
4. D'instituer des Tribunaux composés de Juges doctes en droit.

Compte-Rendu de la Pétition No. 87, en date du 12 Février, présentée au nom des habitants Grecs d'Achioli (133 signatures).

Les pétitionnaires exposent que formant la majorité dans le district d'Achioli ils sollicitent de la Commission Européenne que leur langue soit reconnue officielle, aussi bien que celles des Bulgares et des Turcs. Ils pensent que par ce moyen les intérêts de chaque nationalité seront sauvegardés.

Compte-Rendu de la Pétition No. 88, en date du 12 Janvier, présentée au nom des habitants Grecs de Mesembrie (21 signatures).

Les pétitionnaires exposent qu'ils sont en majorité absolue dans le district de Mesembrie et demandent à la Commission:—

Que leur langue soit reconnue officielle et placée au même rang que celles des autres nationalités et que la nationalité Grecque soit représentée dans les Conseils Administratifs et Judiciaires.

Compte-Rendu de la Pétition No. 89, en date du 12 Janvier, présentée au nom des habitants Grecs de Bourgas (12 signatures et deux cachets).

Les pétitionnaires exposent que depuis l'occupation Russe la race qui a pris en mains les rênes du pouvoir dans ce pays a suivi la même voie que le régime auquel elle a succédé dans le Gouvernement de la province. Si, disent-ils, la Commission confirme l'état des choses actuel, les autres races se verront sous peu en danger de perdre tout.

Les mesures suivantes assureraient le bien-être et la justice aux autres races:—

1. Que la langue Grecque jouisse partout où les Grecs possèdent des écoles et des églises des mêmes droits et priviléges politiques que celle de leurs compatriotes Turcs et Bulgares;
2. Que toutes les races soient représentées au sein de l'Assemblée Provinciale et dans les différents Conseils;
3. Que la gendarmerie soit composée de volontaires appartenant à toutes les nationalités, que ces volontaires soient d'une conduite irréprochable, et que l'organisation de ce corps soit confiée à des officiers n'ayant pas d'intérêts immédiats dans le pays;
4. Que le contingent de la milice soit proportionné au chiffre des habitants de la province, ainsi qu'à ses revenus;
5. Que la province soit divisée en plus de deux Gouvernements, dont l'un, qui pourrait avoir pour chef-lieu Bourgas, comprendrait les districts de Messembria, Achioli, Aïdos, et Karnabad.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff dit que la Commission a déjà décidé de tenir compte des vœux qui ne sont pas vagues et contraires au Traité de Berlin. Il faudrait d'autant plus prendre en considération les désirs de la nationalité Grecque, qu'ils sont précis et représentent les sentiments d'une minorité entreprenante et intelligente. C'est pourquoi le Délégué de la Grande Bretagne demande à la Commission de voter sa motion.

Le Président met aux voix la motion du Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne sur laquelle on se prononcera, comme sur les autres questions à l'ordre du jour, à la majorité des voix.

M. de Braunschweig, sans se rendre un compte exact de l'utilité de la motion, ne la croit pas nuisible. C'est pourquoi il l'accepte, tout en déclarant que les travaux de la Commission ont déjà donné satisfaction à une partie des vœux de la population Grecque.

M. Vernoni, tout en votant la motion, fait remarquer aussi que la Commission a déjà prouvé qu'elle s'efforçait de sauvegarder les intérêts de toutes les nationalités de la province avec la plus grande impartialité.

Le Baron de Ring accepte la motion en se plaçant au point de vue de son collègue d'Allemagne.

M. de Kallay et son Excellence *Assim Pacha* votent aussi la motion.

Le Premier Commissaire de Russie trouve que les pétitionnaires ne sollicitent au fond rien autre chose que ce qui a déjà été demandé au mois de Janvier dans une pétition des Grecs du Département de Philippopoli, dont la Commission a déclaré vouloir tenir compte.

Comme au cours du travail organique de la Commission la presque totalité des questions soulevées par les pétitionnaires Grecs a déjà été résolue dans un sens équitable, et qu'en outre les Grecs demandent le classement des électeurs par corporations, désir auquel la Commission ne saurait faire droit puisqu'elle s'est déjà prononcée sur ce point dans un tout autre sens, le Colonel Schepelew ne voit pas bien quel résultat pratique pourrait avoir la motion de son collègue de la Grande Bretagne.

Enfin, le Premier Commissaire de Russie est d'avis que, la Commission s'étant une fois prononcée sur les principes formulés dans une pétition quelconque, ne devrait pas être obligée de prendre de nouvelles résolutions toutes les fois que d'autres pétitions analogues lui seraient présentés sur la même matière. En conséquence, il déclare s'abstenir de voter sur la motion de Sir Drummond Wolff.

Le Président constate que la motion est acceptée.

M. de Kallay propose de prolonger les pouvoirs du Comité des Finances, qui vont bientôt prendre fin jusqu'à l'époque de l'évacuation, et prie le Président de mettre aux voix sa proposition.

Elle est acceptée à l'unanimité.
La séance est levée à 5 heures trois quarts.

(Signé) RING.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.

No. 364.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 147.) *Philippopolis, March 29, 1879.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 133 of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of the remainder of M. de Coutouly's Report on his journey to Slivno with M. Schmidt and General Stolipine.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 364.

Continuation of M. de Coutouly's Report.

. . . . MAIS si les patriotes indigènes, même les plus modérés, ont leur part de responsabilité dans les évènements dont j'ai l'honneur de vous rendre compte, la part la plus lourde me paraît appartenir à un certain nombre d'agitateurs que je ne puis absolument pas considérer comme les véritables guides et chefs naturels de la population Bulgare. Il est certain que la manifestation dont j'ai été témoin avait été préparée, il y a déjà longtemps, dès qu'il avait été question d'un voyage de M. le Directeur des Finances dans le Département de Slivno. On avait résolu de profiter de l'occasion pour organiser une grande protestation populaire contre le Traité qui avait détruit l'instrument de San Stéfano. Cela m'a été révélé par une quantité d'indices dont j'ai pris note en passant. Mais comme on savait que la masse populaire ne peut jamais se laisser entraîner à de grandes colères contre des combinaisons politiques et des conceptions quelque peu abstraites, et qu'il faut toujours lui présenter un bouc émissaire pour qu'elle manifeste ses passions avec vigueur, on avait eu soin de répandre sur le compte de M. Schmidt les bruits les plus faux et les plus absurdes. C'est ainsi qu'on avait fini par faire croire à la foule que notre Directeur des Finances, dont on avait *Turquisé* le nom—passez-moi l'expression—s'appelait en réalité Ismid, et avait eu sa qualité de haut fonctionnaire du Sultan persécuté les Bulgares à Smyrne. On était même allé jusqu'à dire que le nommé Ismid était en grande partie responsable des horribles massacres qui ont mis en deuil la moitié de la population de Slivno. C'est par ces inventions que, profitant de la haine et de la soif de vengeance, qui troublent presque tous les cœurs des habitants de ce pays, on avait obtenu le concours emporté de la masse pour une manifestation évidemment dirigée par des instigateurs non pas contre la personne de M. Schmidt, mais contre le Traité de Berlin et la Commission Européenne.

Une fois les troubles commencés, quand les inventeurs de toutes ces calomnies intéressées ont compris que la population crédule avait été lancée par eux dans une voie dangereuse pour tout le monde, et même pour la cause Bulgare; quand ils se sont aperçus que son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général allait être forcé par le sentiment de l'honneur personnel et de son devoir vis-à-vis de Sa Majesté l'Empereur Alexandre, signataire du Traité de Berlin, à rétablir l'ordre coûte que coûte, ils ont bien entendu

essayé de faire leur possible, avec le concours des patriotes plus modérés, pour retenir la masse et empêcher un conflit dont les conséquences pouvaient être horriblement dramatiques. Mais il était trop tard, et il est arrivé ce qui arrive toujours en pareil cas. Les meneurs ne pouvaient plus arrêter la foule imprudemment excitée, et je sais positivement que plusieurs d'entre eux ont été maltraités par la populace, ou tout au moins injuriés.

Je dois ajouter du reste, pour tout dire, qu'une part de la responsabilité des événements doit peser aussi, d'après moi, sur les autorités civiles du département, qui ont négligé dès le début de notre Administration de faire connaître à la population le véritable caractère de M. Schmidt, et la nature du mandat conféré à Commission Européenne par l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin, alors qu'en réponse à la lettre adressée en votre nom à son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général à la date du —— 1878, le Général Stolipine vous a fait savoir qu'il avait enjoint à ses représentants de communiquer à tous les fonctionnaires ainsi qu'au contribuables des renseignements d'une précision absolue.

Enfin il est hors de doute pour moi que la plupart des officiers Russes ont souvent tenu, apparemment sans préméditation, devant les habitants de ce pays, un langage qui devait enflammer les passions et troubler le jugement d'une population déjà profondément agitée.

Ceci dit, permettez-moi, Messieurs, de reprendre mon récit où je l'ai laissé.

Après nous avoir remis les deux pétitions que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous lire, le Général Stolipine a bien voulu m'envoyer à faire une visite à Mgr. le Métropolitain en compagnie de deux ou trois Notables de Slivno qui étaient venus me chercher pour une promenade en ville.

Je me suis aussitôt mis en route, et dès que la foule m'a reconnu, les cris de "Vive la France" ont recommencé. Je dois vous dire toutefois que dans cette occasion j'ai été un peu chagriné de voir M. le Vice-Gouverneur, qui avait l'obligeance de m'accompagner, donner en quelque sorte à la foule le signal des hourrahs. Il m'a paru convenable de prier M. le Vice-Gouverneur de vouloir bien me ménager un peu plus, et j'ai en outre prié messieurs les Notables d'empêcher la foule de me suivre.

Au sortir de la maison de M. Séraphim mes guides m'ont conduit devant le conak où une véritable manifestation en l'honneur de la France avait été organisée. Les enfants des écoles rangés sur mon passage m'ont reçu aux cris de "Vive la République Française." On m'a jeté des bouquets de verdure, et un jeune homme qui m'a tenu un petit discours en Français m'a remis un exemplaire de la pétition dont je vous ai fait connaître le texte.

Quant aux vieilles femmes qui s'étaient constituées les gardiennes du conak, elles m'ont entouré pour me raconter leurs griefs. L'une d'elles m'a dit que les Turcs avaient rué son mari et ses fils, et elle a ajouté en sanglotant: "Après cela comment serait-il possible que je permisse à Ismid d'entrer dans le conak et de prendre l'argent Bulgare pour le donner au Sultan."

J'ai su depuis, qu'avant d'organiser cette manifestation, deux ou trois Notables avaient sollicité l'autorisation de M. le Gouverneur-Général, qui n'avait pas cru devoir la refuser.

M. le Gouverneur-Général s'attendait à voir arriver ce jour-là au moins un bataillon. Malheureusement deux compagnies se sont seules présentées, et faute d'un nombre suffisant, il fallut renoncer provisoirement au projet qu'on avait fait de dégager les abords du conak à l'aide d'une manœuvre imaginée pour balayer la foule par la masse seule des soldats en marche sans avoir besoin de se servir des armes. Détail curieux! Les émeutiers, qui semblaient avoir deviné le plan du général, s'émurent en voyant arriver les deux compagnies dont je viens de parler, et ils firent sonner le tocsin sur deux ou trois points de la ville. Le général n'eut toutefois pas trop de peine à faire cesser cette démonstration inquiétante.

Cette nuit-là il ne fut pas permis à M. Schmidt de retourner chez M. le Docteur Mircovitch, lequel avait reçu divers avis lui annonçant que si le Directeur des Finances couchait sous son toit il arriverait malheur à sa maison.

Le lendemain, Lundi, la foule était encore plus nombreuse dans les rues que la veille, parce que c'était jour de bazar. Comme les boutiques sont restées fermées toute la journée, les paysans des villages voisins grossissaient les groupes séditieux.

Dans la matinée, le Général Stolipine m'annonça que deux régiments arriveraient le lendemain et qu'il attendait ces régiments pour exécuter les manœuvres projetées, à moins que les Notables et les autorités ne pussent auparavant réussir à disperser la foule et à dégager ainsi le conak. "On veut," me dit-il, "avoir des martyrs, mais je ne donnerai pas à messieurs les agitateurs la satisfaction de leur en fournir."

Il fit savoir aux Notables que s'ils ne rétablissaient pas l'ordre en se servant de l'influence qu'ils devaient avoir sur le peuple, ils seraient frappés d'une amende considérable.

Vers 11 heures la plupart des autorités locales et des hommes influents de la ville, secondés par M. le Gouverneur Ivanoff, M. le Vice-Gouverneur Rinski-Korsakoff, et le Colonel Kessiakoff se répandirent parmi la foule amenée et ils réussirent à en entraîner la plus grande partie dans l'église, où elle fut haranguée par le Métropolitain d'abord, puis par M. le Colonel Kessiakoff, dont la popularité paraît bien établie.

Les discours de ces deux orateurs parurent avoir fait une vive impression sur le public, car la plupart des hommes prirent le parti de rentrer chez eux; après les avoir entendus toutefois les boutiques ne furent pas ouvertes, et malgré les efforts des membres les plus influents de la Société de Gymnastique, environ 300 femmes continuèrent à assiéger le conak. Dans le reste de la ville on n'apercevait que de petits groupes clairsemés, et d'ailleurs très-apaisés.

Pendant presque toute la journée du lendemain tout resta dans le *statu quo*. Dans l'après-midi M. le Gouverneur-Général reçut un télégramme lui apprenant que dans la ville voisine de Karnabad un voyageur Israélite nommé Chaya avait été pris par la foule pour M. Schmidt et roué de coups. Heureusement les gendarmes avaient pu arriver à temps pour sauver le malheureux, qui était parti sous la protection d'une escorte pour la ville d'Aïdos. Pendant que nous lisions cette dépêche il en arriva une autre apprenant à son Excellence que les habitants de la ville d'Aïdos s'étaient postés en masse en avant de cette ville sur la route de Slivno pour attendre M. Schmidt et l'empêcher d'entrer chez eux.

Vers le milieu de l'après-midi, les deux régiments attendus ayant fait leur entrée, le Général Stolipine résolut d'en finir, et il réunit dans sa chambre une sorte de conseil de guerre, auquel assista le Chef d'Etat-Major du Général Skobeleff, le Général qui depuis quelques jours se trouvait à Slivno.

Je n'ai pas besoin de vous dire, Messieurs, que l'émotion des officiers Russes qui devaient jouer un rôle actif dans l'affaire, était profonde. On savait que les femmes réunies devant le conak se montraient résolues à résister même à la foule, et on craignait qu'une grande partie de la population mâle ne se révoltât si la troupe était réduite à faire des victimes parmi ces femmes.

La situation, il faut en convenir, était excessivement pénible pour une troupe que la population, contre laquelle on pourrait être forcé de lui demander de sévir avec une extrême rigueur, acclame encore avec un enthousiasme, comme l'armée fraternelle et libératrice. Cependant, M. le Général Stolipine se montrant aussi ferme qu'il avait été patient jusque-là, il n'y eut pas la moindre hésitation et tout le monde fit vivement son devoir.

Comment l'opération s'est faite, je n'en sais rien, le sentiment des convenances m'ayant retenu dans la maison; j'ignore aussi le nombre exact des soldats blessés à coups de pierre et des habitants ou habitantes qu'il a fallu frapper pour les chasser.

Je sais seulement qu'il y a eu quelques accidents à déplorer, mais que tout s'est passé en somme plus tranquillement que les officiers ne l'espéraient.

Vers 6 heures les abords du conak étaient complétement dégagés; l'intérieur de ce bâtiment était occupé par la troupe; des postes de soldats étaient établis sur différents points et des patrouilles circulaient dans la ville. Tous les habitants étaient rentrés chez eux, et M. Schmidt pouvait, s'il le désirait, pénétrer dans le bureau de la Caisse, pour la vérifier et inspecter les livres.

M. le Gouverneur-Général nous en fit la déclaration formelle. Mais il demanda à M. Schmidt s'il ne pourrait pas se contenter de faire venir les employés des finances dans la maison du Gouverneur, de s'entretenir avec eux et de leur donner, sous sa présidence, et devant M. Ivanoff, tous les ordres nécessaires au fonctionnement de l'administration financière. "Les livres," lui dit-il, "vous seront envoyés à Philippopoli et je réponds du solde en Caisse." La raison pour laquelle son Excellence ne se souciait pas de voir M. Schmidt entrer personnellement dans le conak, c'était qu'une visite nocturne dans le bureau de la Caisse donnerait lieu à des accusations passionnées et troublerait de nouveau les esprits. Quant à prier M. Schmidt de rester un jour encore à Slivno, M. le Gouverneur-Général n'y songea même pas, car il nous apprit qu'il avait donné l'ordre de préparer les voitures pour nous emmener à 2 heures de la nuit à la station de Hermanly avec une escorte de cavalerie.

Son Excellence nous déclara en outre, comme elle l'avait déjà fait à deux reprises différentes, qu'elle ne pourrait pas assumer la responsabilité d'engager M. Schmidt à

continuer sa tournée, ou à faire de nouveaux voyages dans la province, et que, dans le cas où il se mettrait de nouveau en route, elle ne garantirait pas la sécurité personnelle de notre Directeur des Finances, parce que toute expédition de ce genre se transformerait en une opération militaire impossible.

En présence de ces déclarations officielles, M. Schmidt, après m'avoir consulté, répondit à M. le Gouverneur-Général, d'accord avec moi, qu'il lui répugnerait de faire une visite nocturne et furtive au bureau de la Caisse; que d'ailleurs cette visite, nécessairement trop courte, n'offrirait aucun avantage pratique, parce qu'il n'aurait pas le temps de se livrer à une inspection sérieuse; qu'il se contenterait pour cette raison d'inspecter les livres à Philippopoli, M. le Gouverneur-Général répondant du solde en Caisse; qu'il s'entretiendrait volontiers avec les fonctionnaires des finances pour régler avec eux quelques affaires pendantes; que, cela fait, il repartirait pour Philippopoli à l'heure indiquée, et enfin que, jusqu'à nouvel ordre il renonçait à toute tournée d'inspection dans le département de Slivno.

M. le Gouverneur-Général nous offrit alors de faire venir proclamement à Philippopoli le solde de la Caisse de Slivno, et M. Schmidt accepta cette offre.

Ces arrangements faits, M. le Gouverneur-Général me communiqua l'Ordre suivant, qu'il avait déjà fait imprimer et qui devait être affiché dans la ville en Russe et en Bulgare:—

"*Ordre.*

"*Le 7 Mars*, 1879.

"Je fais savoir par la présente que vu les désordres qui se sont produits à Slivno, toutes les personnes trouvées dans la rue sans fanal après le coucher du soleil seront arrêtées. Les attroupements dans les rues sont défendus de jour comme de nuit.

"Les coupables seront arrêtés et jugés.

"Les boutiques doivent être ouvertes.

"Les propriétaires des boutiques fermées seront, à partir d'aujourd'hui, passibles d'une amende d'un paul Impérial par jour.

"Le Gouverneur de Slivno,
(Signé) "IVANOFF."

M. le Général Stolipino m'apprit en outre que quelques individus ayant résisté à la troupe, avaient été arrêtés et condamnés à recevoir chacun vingt-cinq coups de "usgolika;" que l'ordre serait donné d'arrêter quelques meneurs; que le café dans lequel se réunissaient les agitateurs serait fermé; que les Notables seraient frappés d'une amende considérable dont le produit serait employé à la reconstruction d'une école détruite par les Turcs; et enfin qu'une assez forte garnison serait logée chez les habitants pour que tout le monde en ville eut sa part du châtiment.

A 8 heures et demie du soir, le Caissier de Slivno, qui avait été enfermé chez lui et retenu prisonnier par les émeutiers, fut présenté avec les autres employés des finances à M. Schmidt, qui eut avec eux un entretien dont il vous rendra lui-même compte tout à l'heure.

A 2 heures et demie du matin, nous quittions Slivno en téléga, escortés par vingt-deux cavaliers de la milice Bulgare, quinze Cosaques, et cinq gendarmes Russes. Les miliciens nous ont accompagnés jusqu'à la station de Hermanly. Quant aux Cosaques et aux gendarmes, ils sont arrivés hier soir avec nous à Philippopoli.

No. 365.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 148.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, March 29, 1879.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram reached me this morning. I at once telegraphed to your Lordship Lord Donoughmore's acquiescence with your Lordship's wishes.

Mr. Walpole will remain to give to Lord Donoughmore any assistance he may require.

The French Commissioners are very much annoyed at Lord Donoughmore's remaining here.

They are leaving only on Wednesday or Thursday, and have, I believe, been preparing a demonstration in their own honour, of which they probably require no witnesses outside their own confidants.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of a letter I have addressed to Lord Donoughmore on the subject of his further stay.

I shall myself leave on Monday for Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 365.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to Lord Donoughmore.

My dear Lord Donoughmore, *Philippopolis, March* 29, 1879.

AS you have been good enough to undertake, in compliance with Lord Salisbury's wishes, to stay some time longer at Philippopolis, I have requested Mr. Walpole to remain with you and assist you as Secretary.

I leave you a copy of cypher L, to be returned to me when we again meet. I should be glad if you will communicate to me by telegraph any events that take place here, and request you to forward, for the information of Lord Salisbury, by the same method, copies of telegrams reporting anything which you may consider specially important.

You will be able to send me recorders and despatches once a-week by messenger, which I can submit in the same manner to the Foreign Office.

I think the messenger had better leave Philippopolis every Sunday morning to give me time to take copies of your Reports before the departure of the messenger.

I am, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 366.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 149.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, March* 29, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 138 of the 25th instant, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a letter addressed by General Stolipine to M. de Coutouly in reply to the resolution passed by the Commission on the 24th instant with respect to the non-execution of the stipulations of Article XIX of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 366.

General Stolipine to M. de Coutouly.

Monsieur, *Philippopoli, le* 14 *Mars,* 1879.

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir hier la lettre que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser en date du $\frac{13}{25}$ Mars et par laquelle vous avez eu la bonté de me faire part de la résolution prise par la Commission Européenne dans la séance du $\frac{12}{24}$ de ce mois.

Par cette résolution la Commission déclare entre autres, qu'à cause des difficultés suscitées par certaines autorités Russes elle n'a pu mettre à exécution les stipulations de l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin.

Cette déclaration, sans faits à l'appui, et ayant tout l'air d'une accusation sommaire, ne saurait certainement ne pas être réfutée énergiquement par l'Administration Russe.

Ayant l'honneur de me trouver à la tête de cette Administration, je me crois en droit de déclarer officiellement, que dès les premiers jours de l'entrée au pouvoir de la nouvelle Administration Financière—et moi et mes subordonnés nous nous sommes efforcés d'alléger autant qu'il était en notre pouvoir la tâche de la Commission Européenne dans les questions des finances du pays.

Si, néanmoins, l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin a trouvé en pratique de sérieuses difficultés à être mis à exécution, ce n'est pas faute de bonne volonté de part et d'autre.

Il y a, hélas! bon nombre de stipulations qui paraissant applicables en théorie—en pratique—viennent échouer par la force même des choses.

Je n'abuserai pas de votre temps pour vous énumérer les cas qui se sont reproduits presque journellement, et dans lesquels l'Administration Russe s'est conformée pour des questions de finances aux vœux de la Commission Européenne. Je me permettrai seulement de relever la première partie de votre lettre du $\frac{13}{25}$ Mars, par laquelle vous m'accusez réception de l'état des recettes et des dépenses de la province jusqu'à la date du 1er Octobre, 1878, et vous avez l'obligeance de me transmettre à l'occasion de cet envoi les remercîments de la Commission Européenne.

J'ai vraiment de la peine, Monsieur, à concevoir que la Commission puisse gratifier de sa reconnaissance une Administration qui lui aurait préalablement suscité de sérieuses difficultés.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) A. STOLIPINE.

No. 367.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 150. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, March* 29, 1879.

ABOUT ten days or a fortnight ago Count de Castellane called on me and told me that he had been recalled from his post by Baron de Hirsch. He did not explain to me the reasons of his recall, which I attributed to his extraordinary mismanagement of the affair of the Forest of Bellova.

To-day I met a gentleman who knew the whole circumstance, and who, in fact, had been present at M. de Castellane's interview with Réouf Pasha, at which he had suggested the appointment of M. de Coutouly as Governor-General.

This gentleman tells me that having on this occassion received from Réouf Pasha a letter for the Grand Vizier, M. de Castellane at once left for Constantinople, telegraphing to M. Fournier to meet him the evening of his arrival at that capital. This meeting took place, and afterwards M. de Castellane presented to Khaireddin Pasha the Memorandum he had prepared on the subject. His proposals met, as I understand, with the approval both of M. Fournier and of M. de Coutouly.

Meanwhile Count Andrassy, hearing of what was going on, communicated with M. de Hirsch, who is an Austrian subject, intimating that it was impossible to give him support in his claims if his agents mixed themselves up in political intrigues of which the Austrian Government disapproved. On receiving this intimation M. de Castellane was at once dismissed.

This accounts for the hostility of M. de Coutouly towards M. de Kallay, whom he describes as a very dangerous man.

To-day, on Lord Donoughmore informing M. de Coutouly that his departure was adjourned, the latter expressed himself in very violent terms on the subject, in the presence both of Mr. Walpole and M. Schmidt. He said that Lord Donoughmore was staying here to intrigue; that England intrigued, while France never did so, being merely a tool in the hands of her ally. He said that M. Waddington was an Englishman, and in English interests. France would never have signed the Treaty of Berlin but for the influence exercised over her Government by that of England. He spoke indignantly about Cyprus and Syria, and complained in the same tone that French interests in the latter country were represented as sentimental and not real. He also said that the conduct of England was "lâche" in attempting to avoid war when war was incumbent upon her.

The Tocqueville arrangement had failed simply because England had persuaded the French Government not to support it. On this account M. Fournier is about to take leave of absence at once; and if he (M. de Coutouly) left diplomacy, he should certainly expose the cowardly conduct of his Government in the press. He denounced the Commission as cowardly for leaving Philippopolis, and he did not even spare M. de Ring in his philippic, with whom he said he differed entirely on the question of the departure of the Commission.

Lord Donoughmore behaved with great tact and temper, and so the incident ended.

As I once before informed your Lordship, M. de Coutouly would never have found a place in the public service of his country but for M. Waddington, who,

according to M. de Coutouly's own account, was much criticised in the press for making such an appointment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 368.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 16.)

(No. 151.)
My Lord, *Pera, April* 2, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the 49th Protocol.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 368.

Protocole No. 49.—*Séance Extraordinaire du* $\frac{28 \text{ Février}}{12 \text{ Mars}}$, 1879 (18 *Rébi-ul-Evel*, 1296), *à la Maison de la Commission Européenne à Philippopoli.*

Présidence de Son Excellence le BARON DE RING.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring,
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff,
Le Comte de Donoughmore.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schepelew,
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.
Le Protocole de la dernière séance, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.
Le Baron de Ring prononce le discours suivant :—

"Messieurs,

"M. de Coutouly à la dernière séance a voté en mon nom le projet du Chapitre présenté par M. de Kallay. J'approuve et ratifie ce vote, qui était inspiré à celui qui l'a émis par une appréciation très juste du rôle qui convient ici aux Commissaires des Puissances neutres, quand ceux des Gouvernements plus directement intéressés aux questions qui se débattent dans cette enceinte sont d'accord pour adopter une proposition ne touchant pas directement à l'ordre politique.

"Si le Chapitre IX n'avait pas été voté sans débats et en bloc, j'aurais eu quelques amendements à présenter.

"Je regrette beaucoup, Messieurs, que vous ayiez, sur l'initiative de M. de Kallay, supprimé une institution historique à laquelle la population Rouméliote semblait très-attachée, je veux parler de la juridiction arbitrale exercée par les Conseils des Anciens

des communes rurales. A mon avis la judicature attribuée par M. de Kallay aux Maires donnera lieu à bien des mécomptes.

"J'ai aussi des doutes sur la valeur des dispositions de votre Chapitre concernant les Juges de Canton. La compétence assignée à ces Magistrats me paraît trop étendue. Comme le Chapitre que vous avez voté prévoit qu'il y aura plusieurs Juges Cantonaux par canton, je ne me rends pas compte de l'utilité qu'il y avait à leur donner une position différente de celle qu'ils occupent en France, en Belgique, et dans d'autres pays encore. J'aurais aimé qu'on en fît le dernier échelon de l'ordre judiciaire, en laissant aux plaideurs la faculté de s'adresser au Conseils des Anciens seulement dans le cas où il y aurait eu entente préalable entre eux sur ce point.

"J'ai aussi quelques critiques à adresser au travail de notre collègue d'Autriche-Hongrie pour ce qui concerne la division, selon moi trop tranchée, qu'il a établie entre les Juges Civils et les Juges Criminels dans les Tribunaux de Département et à la Cour d'Appel. J'estime qu'on aurait pu prendre telle disposition qui eût permis aux mêmes Magistrats de siéger alternativement suivant un certain roulement, dans des procès civils et dans des procès criminels ou correctionnels. Cette disposition aurait eu un double avantage : elle aurait permis de diminuer le nombre des Magistrats et augmenté le prestige du corps entier de la magistrature. En vérité, je crains et j'espère tout à la fois que les Juges Criminels institués par vous n'auront rien à faire les trois quarts du temps. S'ils devaient employer leurs loisirs à s'occuper de politique, je le regretterais sincèrement. Du reste, Messieurs, ces observations ont la valeur de simples réserves théoriques. Je vous ai déjà dit que je ratifiais le vote de M. de Coutouly. Ainsi, vous n'aurez pas à revenir sur la matière, à moins qu'à la seconde lecture vous ne vous mettiez d'accord pour cela.

"Je n'ai pas besoin d'ajouter, Messieurs, qu'au surplus je rends, comme nous tous, justice au talent et à la conscience avec lesquels M. de Kallay s'est acquitté de la tâche difficile qui lui était échue."

Sir H. Drummond Wolff dépose sur le bureau le projet de Chapitre XIV : "Organisation de la Propriété Foncière, etc.," rédigé par lui en collaboration avec MM. de Braunschweig et Vernoni.

M. Rozet donne lecture de ce travail qui sera imprimé et distribué :

"XIII.—*Organisation de la Propriété Foncière.*

"Article 1er. Au plus tard à la deuxième Session ordinaire de l'Assemblée Provinciale, le Gouverneur-Général présentera à celle-ci un Projet de Loi traitant de la propriété foncière.

"Art. 2. Ce Projet de Loi devra :—

"1. Porter création d'un cadastre des propriétés territoriales de la province.

"2. Décréter l'abolition des dîmes.

"3. Remplacer celles-ci par un impôt foncier.

"4. Convertir en propriété foncière libre, moyennant rachat avec le concours du Trésor Provincial, les terres et autres immeubles régis par le vakouf ou sujets à une servitude féodale.

"5. Régler le régime des hypothèques.

"6. Réformer le système actuellement existant des registres de la propriété foncière.

"Les nouveaux registres devront contenir :

"(*a.*) Le nom du propriétaire de chaque immeuble, ainsi que la transcription de ses titres de propriété.

"(*b.*) Les servitudes foncières et autres charges permanentes grevant l'immeuble.

"(*c.*) Les priviléges et les hypothèques grevant le dit immeuble."

L'ordre du jour appelle le débat sur le Chapitre VII : "Finances."

M. Vernoni prend la parole en ces termes :—

"Messieurs,

"Ce qui m'a préoccupé le plus dans la rédaction du Chapitre que vous allez discuter a été sa première partie. J'avais à traiter et à ménager des intérêts divers et devais leur faire une juste part à tous. Dans cette tâche, j'ai été constamment guidé par la plus grande, je puis dire la plus consciencieuse impartialité ; je vous en laisse juges.

"La seconde partie du Chapitre VII contient l'exposé du mécanisme de l'Admi-

nistration Financière et les règlements qui lui sont indispensables pour entrer immédiatement en fonctions. Elle est divisée comme suit :

"Relations financières de la province avec l'Empire ; monopoles ; Contributions Indirectes ; administration des biens de la province ; comptabilité générale ; année financière ; budget ; rentrées de la province ; dépenses de la province ; fonctionnement des différentes Directions qui sont chargées du maniement des biens de la province ; rendement des comptes de l'administration de la province ; perception des impôts, paiement des dépenses, et versement des deniers publics par les agents de la province.

"J'ai tâché d'assurer à la province une bonne comptabilité et un contrôle assidu et permanent des deniers publics.

"Je suis prêt à vous fournir les éclaircissements que vous pourrez desirer, et je compte sur votre indulgence dans l'appréciation que vous ferez de mon œuvre."

M. de Kallay rappelle qu'à la suite d'une entente entre quelques Commissaires certains changements ont été introduits dans le projet de M. Vernoni avec l'assentiment de l'auteur et, ayant été acceptés par lui, font maintenant partie du texte même du Chapitre VII. Il se déclare prêt, pour sa part, à accepter ce Chapitre ainsi amendé et n'a aucune objection à faire ni sur son ensemble, ni sur ses détails. Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie termine en exprimant à M. Vernoni sa reconnaissance pour le travail consciencieux et complet soumis par celui-ci à la Commission.

Le Colonel Schepelew, en adressant aussi ses félicitations au Chevalier Vernoni, voudrait néanmoins attirer l'attention des collègues sur un point du Chapitre VII qui lui paraît contestable : "Je trouve," dit le Premier Commissaire de Russie, "que la moyenne des revenus annuels de la Roumélie Orientale est évaluée par l'honorable auteur du projet à un chiffre trop élevé, surtout pour les prochaines années, pendant lesquelles le pays aura à se relever des suites de la crise économique qu'il traverse en ce moment. Je ne connais pas les données qui ont servi de base à M. le Commissaire d'Italie pour fixer dès à présent la moyenne des revenus de la province à £ T. 800,000 par an. Quoique je ne doute pas un seul instant que ces données n'aient eu aux yeux de M. Vernoni un caractère d'authenticité réelle, je tiens pour ma part à constater que les renseignements financiers que j'ai pu puiser dans les salnamés Turcs, pour la période des quatre années qui ont précédé la dernière guerre, m'avaient amené à un tout autre résultat.

"En effet, les salnamés démontrent que pendant les années 1873–76 (défalcation faite du bédel-i-askérié) le maximum des revenus annuels pour le département de Philippopoli était de £ T. 630,000, et le minimum £ T. 396,000 ; pour le département de Slivno ces deux chiffres étaient de £ T. 302,000 maximum et de £ T. 172,000 minimum. La moyenne pendant toute la période des quatre années serait donc de £ T. 767,000 pour les deux départements actuels de la Roumélie Orientale. Ce chiffre, comme vous le voyez, approche de très-près celui auquel s'est arrêté le Chevalier Vernoni, mais cette approximation n'est qu'apparente, et voici pourquoi :

"Les salnamés n'indiquaient au fond que le montant des revenus qui, après répartition, devaient être prélevés sur la province, et non le chiffre réellement rentré, qui était toujours bien au-dessous, certaines localités n'étant jamais en mesure de payer tout le montant des impôts mis à leur charge. Aussi les arrérages des impôts s'élevaient chaque année à une somme très-considérable, qui atteignait par fois presque le quart du total des revenus prévus. Il est juste de remarquer en outre que c'est dans l'année 1875, qui a donné le maximum des revenus pour les deux départements, que le vergui, le béglyk, et la dîme ont été perçus dans plusieurs parties de la province à titre d'avance pour le compte de l'année suivante, et que, malgré cela, le total des revenus n'a pas atteint le chiffre de £ T. 800,000. C'est encore durant cette même année que certains fermiers des dîmes ruinèrent leur fortune et restèrent débiteurs de la Porte pour de fortes sommes, malgré toutes les vexations et extorsions auxquelles le système d'affermage assujettissait les habitants. Enfin nous savons que depuis l'année 1876 la population de la province a diminué de près d'un quart, dont la plus grande partie est à jamais disparue : c'est un fait important avec lequel il faut nécessairement compter pour établir aussi justement que possible le chiffre des revenus à attendre, surtout de la dîme et du vergui. D'un autre côté, la population actuelle, qui ne se relève qu'avec peine des suites des derniers événements, souffre d'un manque général de bestiaux et d'instruments de labour, ce qui doit indubitablement nuire au progrès de l'agriculture et par conséquent aux finances du pays.

"Vous conviendrez, Messieurs, que les causes que je viens d'énumérer, et qui ne me paraissent guère discutables, doivent réduire considérablement la moyenne des

revenus annuels de la province au moins au début de la nouvelle organisation. Il serait donc préférable à mon point de vue de prendre pour cette moyenne un chiffre en rapport avec les conditions économiques actuelles du pays, qui ne peuvent changer d'un jour à l'autre. J'admets et je veux espérer qu'une bonne administration facilitera le développement des forces productives de la province, ainsi que l'augmentation de ses revenus ; mais encore faut-il laisser à cette Administration le temps de faire ses preuves, et jusque-là ne pas lui donner des illusions sur l'état présent de ce pays, en faisant briller à ses yeux des chiffres plus ou moins problématiques.

"Vu les considérations que je viens d'exposer, j'eusse été porté, quant à moi, à fixer la moyenne des revenus annuels de la Roumélie Orientale tout au plus à £ T. 650,000 ; et, en outre (comme toute nouvelle organisation demande des dépenses extraordinaires, qui disparaissent dès que le régime administratif entre dans une voie normales), à stipuler que la province ne participerait pas pendant les deux prochaines années budgétaires aux charges générales de l'Empire. La part des revenus qui excéderait les frais de l'Administration Provinciale aurait pu être destinée, pendant les deux premières années, à améliorer le sort de la population, en lui facilitant les moyens de reconstruire les villages et maisons ruinées, de se pourvoir de bestiaux, d'instruments d'agriculture, &c. Dans ce cas seulement on eut pu peut-être espérer que la prospérité prendrait un essor assez rapide pour que, dans deux ou trois ans, les revenus atteignissent le chiffre de £ T. 800,000 et que la contrée fût en état de payer sa quote-part déjà développée à l'Empire.

"J'ai pensé que ces idées, que j'ai déjà développées dans une conférence privée avec l'auteur du projet du Chapitre VII, avaient une portée assez grave pour être soumises à l'appréciation de la Commission. J'ajouterai toutefois que, sur les instances de notre collègue d'Italie, j'ai donné mon adhésion à l'Article par lequel la province est tenue de payer au Trésor de l'Empire la somme de £ T. 120,000 pendant la seconde année du futur exercice financier. Resterait donc à nous entendre sur la moyenne des revenus annuels de la Roumélie Orientale. Vous connaissez maintenant, Messieurs, les sources auxquelles j'ai puisé les données qui m'ont amené à contester le chiffre des revenus fixé par M. Vernoni, ainsi que l'état économique actuel du pays. Je suis loin de prétendre que les renseignements financiers sur lesquels j'ai pu me baser ne soient pas sujet à critique, et il n'est pas dans mon intention de m'opposer d'une façon absolue à l'adoption du Chapitre VII. Mais si tous mes collègues sont persuadés que la moyenne des revenus indiquée par le Chevalier Vernoni repose sur des informations plus exactes que celles des salnamés Turcs, et que celles de l'adoption d'un tel chiffre ne résulteraient pas des charges trop onéreuses pour la province, je me déclare prêt à me ranger à leur avis. Pour ce qui est de tout le reste du Chapitre VII, je l'accepte sans objection dans sa teneur actuelle."

Abro Effendi : "L'estimation des revenus de la province faite par M. Vernoni, loin d'être exagérée, nous semble très-modeste. Les chiffres cités par le Colonel Schepelew ne sont qu'approximatifs, et par conséquent inexacts. Le total des revenus de la province pour l'année 1875, total extrait de la comptabilité du Ministère des Finances, s'élève à la somme de £ T. 102,000. Il faut ajouter à ce total une somme de £ T. 300,000, qui représentent les revenus indirects : ce qui fait un ensemble de £ T. 1,320,000.

"L'estimation de M. Vernoni est donc au-dessous de la vérité et non au delà, comme semble le croire le Colonel Schepelew. C'est pourquoi mon collègue et moi nous nous croyons dans l'obligation de faire nos réserves sur l'Article qui fixe à trois dixièmes ou £ T. 240,000 la part des revenus qui reviendront à l'Empire. Pour le reste, nous l'acceptons avec les amendements auxquels nous avons coopéré avec quelques-uns de nos collègues."

Le Colonel Schepelew fait observer que le Deuxième Commissaire Ottoman ne cite à l'appui de ses arguments qu'une seule année, celle de 1875, qui, pour des raisons déjà expliquées, a donné le chiffre de revenus le plus élevé ; tandis qu'il serait plus juste de se baser sur les revenus d'une période de plusieurs années : "Du reste," ajoute le Premier Commissaire de Russie "le chiffre cité par Abro Effendi n'est pas sensiblement différé de celui que je trouve de mon côté pour la même année dans le salnamé, et qui est de £ T. 910,000, pour toute la province, si mon collègue de Turquie n'avait compté comme il l'a fait, je suppose, le bédel que nous venons d'abolir et les revenus d'Ahy-Tchélébi et de Sultaniéri, régions qui ne font plus partie du département de Philippopoli. Dans tous les cas, je répète que l'année 1875 ne peut nous servir d'exemple, puisque c'est à cette époque que la population a dû payer certaines taxes doubles sur divers produits, à charge pour le Gouvernement Ottoman de tenir compte aux habitants de ces avances forcées."

Abro Effendi : "Si d'un côté Sultaniéri et Ahy-Tchélébi ne font plus partie de la

Roumélie Orientale, cette province s'est agrandie des deux districts, ceux de Moustapha-Pacha et d'Ichtiman, dont les revenus compensent ceux de Sultaniéri et d'Aly-Tchélébi. Nous soutenons donc que les données que nous avons fournies sont très-exactes."

Le Prince Tzeretelew croit savoir qu'en 1875 il a été prélevé un tant pour cent au delà de la dime, et que cette augmentation aurait été abolie par la suite.

Abro Effendi répond que la surtaxe d'impôts à laquelle le Prince Tzeretelew vient de faire allusion n'était pas comprise dans les pièces du Ministère des Finances citées par lui; ces pièces donnent le chiffre mensuel des revenus de la Roumélie Orientale. Les renseignements de ce genre qu'on trouve dans les salnamés sont inexacts, et ne peuvent être considérés comme officiels; les salnamés ne contenant que des chiffres approximatifs ne peuvent donner des indications aussi sûres que celles fournies par le Ministère des Finances à la clôture d'un service.

Le Chevalier Vernoni, répondant aux considérations développées par le Colonel Schepelew, dit que dans les Tableaux qui se trouvent à la Banque Ottomane et au Ministère des Finances à Constantinople, les revenus du seul Sandjak de Philippopoli sont estimés à £ T. 800,000; ceux du Sandjak de Slivno sont évalués à plus de £ T. 250,000; étant donné la situation économique du pays," continue le Commissaire d'Italie, "j'ai sensiblement diminué ces chiffres dans mon projet, et j'ai tout lieu de croire que je ne me suis laissé aller à aucune exagération.

"Je ferai observer au Colonel Schepelew qu'en réalité la province aura été dispensée de toute participation aux frais généraux de l'Empire pendant deux ans et huit mois, car depuis l'occupation du pays par les Russes elle ne paye rien au Trésor de la Turquie.

"J'ai fixé la quote-part de la Roumélie Orientale à £ T. 240,000, après avoir fait un devis approximatif des dépenses qu'exigeront l'Administration, l'entretien de la milice et de la gendarmerie, et les travaux publics. En assurant très-largement ces dépenses, j'ai constaté qu'après le paiement de la quote-part, il resterait encore un excédant assez considérable même, au cas où les revenus de la province n'atteindraient pas le chiffre £ T. 800,000. Enfin la clause qui établit que même durant la seconde année du nouvel exercice financier, la quote-part ne sera pas payée en entier est, je crois, de nature à laisser amplement à ce pays le temps de se remettre des secousses qu'il a éprouvées. Il est à prévoir d'ailleurs qu'une grande partie de la population absente reviendra ici, et contribuera au développement économique de la province."

Le Colonel Schepelew dit qu'il fait des vœux pour que les prévisions du Chevalier Vernoni se réalisent, et déclarent qu'il ne fera aucune opposition à l'acceptation du Chapitre VII, si celui-ci réunit l'adhésion de tous ses collègues.

Après cet échange d'idées, le Chapitre VII, mis aux voix par le Président, est voté par la Commission dans la forme suivante:—

Chapitre VII.—Finances.

I.—*Des Relations Financières de la Province avec l'Empire.*

(Adopté en première lecture.)

Article 1er. La Roumélie Orientale participe aux charges générales de l'Empire dans la proportion de trois-dixièmes de ses revenus, exception faite de ceux qui sont réservés à l'Empire.

Art. 2. Les revenus provenant des douanes, des postes, des télégraphes, et des phares sont réservés à l'Empire.

Le produit net des quatre Administrations spéciales sus-mentionnées est payé par l'Administration Financière de la province au Gouvernement Central de l'Empire, selon les dispositions du présent Statut et des règlements provisoires.

Art. 3. L'équivalent du produit net annuel des douanes, évalué à la somme fixe de £ T. 5,000, est dévolu au Gouvernement Impérial.

Art. 4. Les droits de douane sont perçus par l'Administration des Finances de la province, conformément aux Traités de Commerce et aux Tarifs y relatifs existants ou à exister entre la Sublime Porte et les Puissances étrangères.

Art. 5. Il n'existe aucune frontière douanière entre la Roumélie Orientale et les autres provinces de l'Empire, de même qu'il n'existe aucune frontière douanière entre les autres provinces de l'Empire et la Roumélie Orientale.

Art. 6. Les produits de la Roumélie Orientale peuvent librement circuler dans

toutes les provinces de l'Empire, et ceux des autres provinces de l'Empire jouissent du même droit dans la Roumélie Orientale.

Art. 7. Les marchandises de provenance étrangère qui ont acquitté les droits de douane, soit dans la Roumélie Orientale, soit dans les autres provinces de l'Empire sont considérées, dans le premier cas, comme ayant payé ces droits aux autorités de l'Empire, et dans le second, comme les ayant payés aux autorités de la Roumélie Orientale.

Art. 8. A titre de compensation des revenus des postes et des télégraphes il est établi ce qui suit:—

1. Le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman fournit au Gouverneur-Général la quantité de timbres-poste spéciaux nécessaires au service postal de la province;

2. La moitié de la somme provenant de la vente des dits timbres-poste est remboursée au Gouvernement Central;

3. L'autre moitié est dévolue à la province pour couvrir les frais des Administrations des postes et des télégraphes, frais qui restent à la charge de la province;

4. Une comptabilité spéciale est tenue pour les recettes provenant de la correspondance télégraphique internationale. Cette catégorie de recettes est remboursée par le Gouverneur-Général à l'Administration télégraphique de l'Empire, conformément aux règlements en vigueur.

Art. 9. Un préposé de la Compagnie des Phares est attaché à l'Office Sanitaire de Bourgas, pour percevoir les droits de phares, conformément aux Tarifs et règlements en vigueur.

Art. 10. Les frais d'installation et d'entretien des phares restent à la charge de la Compagnie concessionnaire.

Art. 11. Si la nécessité de nouveaux phares sur le littoral de la Roumélie Orientale est démontrée, ils seront installés à la suite d'un accord préalable avec la province.

II.—*Direction et Personnel administratif des Finances.*

(A.)—*Direction des Finances.*

Art. 12. Il y aura dans le chef-lieu de la province de la Roumélie Orientale une Direction des finances composée comme suit:—

(*a.*) Un Directeur des Finances;
(*b.*) Un Sous-Directeur (Secrétaire);
(*c.*) Un Contrôleur-en-chef chargé en même temps de la direction du service d'inspection;
(*d.*) Un Trésorier-Général;
(*e.*) Un Chef Comptable;
(*f.*) Un Chef de la Correspondance.

Art. 13. Ces fonctionnaires forment le Conseil Permanent des Finances.

Art. 14. Le dit Conseil des Finances se réunit une fois par semaine sous la présidence du Directeur des Finances.

Art. 15. A des époques déterminées par la Direction des Finances, un nombre suffisant d'Inspecteurs-Contrôleurs visiteront les différents départements de la province à l'effet d'entendre les plaintes des contribuables et d'en référer sur celles qu'ils considèrent comme fondées.

La visite des Inspecteurs-Contrôleurs aura lieu après l'affichage de la liste de la répartition des impôts, dont il est question à l'Article 21.

(B.)—*Administration Financière et son Personnel dans les Départements.*

Art 16. Dans chaque Département il y a:—

1. Un Préposé des Finances, chef du service financier;
2. Un Chef des Contributions Indirectes;
3. Un Percepteur-en-chef;
4. Un Caissier.

Ces fonctionnaires sont responsables vis-à-vis de la Direction des Finances, et sont placés sous la surveillance du Préfet.

Art. 17. Les dits fonctionnaires forment, conjointement avec la Commission Départementale, le Conseil des Finances du département.

Ce Conseil est chargé de l'examen de toute réclamation concernant le service financier.

(C.)—*Administration Financière et son Personnel dans les Cantons.*

Art. 18. Dans chaque canton il y a un Percepteur, un Caissier, et au besoin un préposé chargé du service des Contributions Indirectes.

Ces fonctionnaires sont placés sous la surveillance du Bailli et relèvent du Préposé des Finances du Département.

(D.)—*Administration Financière et son Personnel dans les Communes.*

Art. 19. Dans chaque commune ou section de commune un membre du Conseil Municipal ou du Conseil des Anciens est désigné pour les fonctions de Caissier, un autre pour celles de Comptable.

Ils sont placés sous la surveillance du Maire.

Art 20. Dans les communes urbaines la répartition des impôts se fait par une Commission formée conformément à l'Article 76 du Chapitre VI. Dans les communes rurales cette répartition se fait conformément à l'Article 87 du même Chapitre.

Art. 21. Une liste de la répartition des impôts est dressée par les soins des autorités chargées de la répartition. Des copies de cette liste sont affichées, ainsi que cela se pratique pour les publications officielles.

Art. 22. Les Maires et les Maires de Sections sont chargés et responsables de la rentrée exacte des impôts.

III.—*Monopoles.*

(A.)—*Poudre à Feu.*

Art. 23. La vente de la poudre à feu se fait pour le compte de la province soit dans les magasins du Gouvernement, soit par les débitants munis d'une autorisation spéciale.

Art. 24. Il est défendu aux particuliers de fabriquer de la poudre à feu dans la Roumélie Orientale ou d'en importer de l'étranger.

Art. 25. La poudre provenant des autres provinces de l'Empire ne peut être introduite dans la Roumélie Orientale sans une autorisation spéciale du Gouvernement de la province.

Le permis délivré à cet effet est donné gratuitement.

(B.)—*Sel.*

Art. 26. Il est défendu aux particuliers d'importer le sel de l'étranger.

Art. 27. Nulle exploitation de salines, marais salants, mines de sel, sources ou puits d'eau salée naturellement ou artificiellement ne peut avoir lieu qu'en vertu d'une autorisation accordée par le Gouvernement de la province.

Cette autorisation ne peut être refusée pour les exploitations actuellement existantes.

Art. 28. Les lois et règlements généraux sur les mines sont applicables aux exploitations des mines de sel.

IV.—*Contributions Directes.*

Art. 29. Les impôts directs de la province peuvent être modifiés ou transformés par des lois provinciales.

Jusqu'à cette époque restent en vigueur les impôts directs fixés par le Règlement Provisoire.

La nouvelle Administration s'appliquera avant tout à transformer l'impôt de la dîme en impôt foncier.

V.—*Contributions Indirectes.*

(A.)—*Tabac.*

Art. 30. Le tabac produit par la Roumélie Orientale ou introduit dans cette province doit être déclaré au bureau des Contributions Indirectes.

Art. 31. Le tabac en feuilles paie un droit de circulation.

Le bureau des Contributions Indirectes rembourse le dit droit de circulation sur la quantité de tabac qui est exportée.

Art. 32. Les reçus délivrés par les autorités de la Roumélie Orientale constatant le paiement du droit de circulation sont valables dans les autres provinces de l'Empire, et ceux délivrés par les autorités Ottomanes sont valables dans le Roumélie Orientale.

Art. 33. Il est interdit aux particuliers de couper du tabac dans d'autres endroits que dans les manufactures autorisées par le bureau des Contributions Indirectes.

Ces manufactures sont placées sous le contrôle permanent du dit bureau.

Art. 34. La perception des droits de consommation s'effectue par la vente de banderolles.

Art. 35. Il ne peut être livré à la consommation du tabac et des cigarettes qui n'ont pas acquitté le droit de consommation dans la Roumélie Orientale.

Art. 36. Les débitants de tabac doivent être munis d'une patente délivrée par le bureau des Contributions Indirectes.

Art. 37. Les patentes sont renouvelées chaque année.

Art. 38. Les tabacs ou cigares étrangers qui ont acquitté le droit d'importation sont revêtus de banderolles qui leur assurent la libre circulation dans toutes les provinces de l'Empire.

(B.)—*Spiritueux.*

Art. 39. Tout fabricant de vin, d'eau de vie, ou d'autres spiritueux est soumis à une taxe sur les produits de sa fabrication, au profit du Trésor.

Art. 40. La Direction des Finances fixe chaque année le prix de vins et des spiritueux d'après lequel la taxe dont il est question à l'Article précédent doit être perçue.

La décision de la Direction des Finances doit être sanctionnée par une loi.

Art. 41. Les débitants de boissons doivent être munis d'une autorisation de l'Administration Civile de la province et d'une patente que leur est délivrée par le bureau des Contributions Indirectes.

Art. 42. Les patentes sont renouvelées chaque année.

(C.)—*Timbre.*

Art. 43. Les billets à ordre ou au porteur, les rescriptions, mandats, mandements, ordonnances, effets négociables ou de commerce, même ceux faits en Roumélie Orientale et payables à l'étranger, les billets et obligations non négociables, les mandats à terme ou de place en place, les actions dans les sociétés ou compagnies, les obligations négociables des départements, des communes, des établissements publics et des compagnies sont soumis à un droit de timbre sur les sommes exprimées dans les documents susmentionnés.

Art. 44. Les documents portant le timbre de la Roumélie Orientale ne sont pas soumis au droit de timbre dans les autres provinces de l'Empire, de même que ceux munis du timbre de l'Empire Ottoman ne paient pas le dit droit en Roumélie Orientale.

VI.—*Octroi.*

Art. 45. L'établissement des taxes d'octroi et autres taxes municipales votées par les Conseils Municipaux en cas d'insuffisance des revenus de la commune, ainsi que les règlements relatifs à leur perception ou à leur modification sont autorisés par délibération du Conseil Général.

Art. 46. Il appartient au Conseils Municipaux de décider le mode de perception des taxes d'octroi.

Art. 47. Le versement du produit des octrois s'effectue intégralement à la Caisse municipale.

Art. 48. Il n'y a de soumis à l'octroi que les objets qui doivent se consommer dans la commune.

Art. 49. Les préposés d'octroi sont nommés par les municipalités et contrôlés par l'Administration Financière.

La continuation des débats sur le Chapitre VII, discussion des Règlements y annexés, est remise à la prochaine séance.

Le Président demande à l'Assemblée si elle est d'avis d'ouvrir la discussion sur le Projet du Chapitre XIV : "Organisation de la propriété foncière."

Le Baron de Ring dit qu'à son avis le projet de la Sous-Commission ne répond pas tout-à-fait au plan primitif de la majorité des Commissaires, qui tendait à poser dans le Statut Organique les bases mêmes de la future organisation de la propriété foncière,

sauf à laisser à la première Assemblée Provinciale le soin d'en préciser les détails. Ce projet ne contient en effet, à proprement parler, qu'une promesse de réformes, et l'Assemblée aurait donc à lutter probablement contre les plus grandes difficultés le jour où elle essaierait de réaliser celles-là. L'abolition des vacoufs notamment rencontrerait de sérieuses résistances de la part de ceux qui ont si bien réussi depuis des années à rendre illusoires diverses tentatives pour régénérer l'Empire Ottoman. Et la loi provinciale qui en décréterait le rachat, courrait grand risque de n'être jamais sanctionnée, si les Représentants de la population Rouméliote ne pouvaient pas exciper d'un titre formel émanant de la Commission Européenne, et contenant déjà les lignes générales de la transformation économique et sociale à accomplir.

La Commission pourrait et devrait donc, d'après le Commissaire de France, établir les traits principaux de la réforme en choisissant parmi les systèmes de rachat des servitudes foncières ayant un caractère féodal, qui ont été appliqués dans les différents états de l'Europe. La question est des plus importantes pour le bien-être futur de la province. En la négligeant, la Commission s'exposerait à encourir le reproche de ne s'être occupée en organisant la Roumélie Orientale que des intérêts généraux de l'Europe et d'avoir fait bon marché de ceux de la population même: "Je ne suis pas préparé aujourd'hui," dit en terminant le Baron de Ring, "à soumettre à la Commission un plan d'ensemble de l'opération que devra effectuer le Gouvernement Provincial en vue du rachat des propriétés régies par le vacouf, mais je me réserve de présenter à ce sujet des amendements à une séance ultérieure."

Le Prince Tzeretelew abonde dans le sens du Baron de Ring. A son avis, l'Assemblée Provinciale ne sera pas dans les mêmes conditions d'impartialité et d'objectivité dans lesquelles se trouve la Commission. Ce serait donc à cette dernière de tracer à la future législature le programme de la réforme de la propriété foncière dans le pays.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff dit que, tout en partageant l'avis du Baron de Ring et du Prince Tzeretelew sur l'urgence de poser les bases d'une réorganisation de la propriété foncière, il leur semble difficile que la Commission entreprenne ce travail. Il doute même que cette tâche soit tout-à-fait de la compétence de la Commission, chargée par le Traité d'élaborer le système administratif, financier et judiciaire de la province, mais non de légiférer sur la propriété privée. La question présente d'ailleurs des difficultés techniques considérables et demanderait, pour être résolue d'une manière satisfaisante, un temps très-long. L'expérience faite par Sir H. Drummond Wolff de ces difficultés au temps où il se trouvait à Constantinople avec Sir Henry Bulwer l'a engagé à insister pour une rédaction vague du Chapitre sur la propriété foncière. Le Projet qui a été lu à la Commission est néanmoins de nature à poser les bases d'une réorganisation nécessaire et à indiquer la voie que devra suivre la future législature.

Le Baron de Ring fait observer à Sir Henry Drummond Wolff que la question de la compétence de la Commission pour statuer sur la propriété foncière a été tranchée lors du vote sur le programme des travaux élaboré par M. de Kallay, qui contient entre autres la rubrique suivante: "Organisation de la propriété foncière."

Le Chevalier Vernoni croit comme Sir Henry Drummond Wolff que la question de la propriété foncière présente les plus grandes difficultés. Les hommes d'Etat les plus éminents de la Turquie se sont appliqués, sans y parvenir, à la résoudre: aussi le Délégué d'Italie est d'avis que le Chapitre du Statut Organique traitant de cette matière ne saurait recevoir pour le moment un développement bien considérable. En se rendant à Constantinople pour élaborer ce travail, la Commission pourrait consulter les archives de la Porte et les personnes compétentes, ce qui faciliterait sa tâche.

M. de Braunschweig pense que le Projet qu'il a rédigé de concert avec Sir Henry Drummond Wolff et M. Vernoni contient des bases suffisantes pour diriger, dans le sens reconnu utile et nécessaire par la Commission, les travaux de l'Assemblée Provinciale sur la question d'une réforme de la propriété foncière. Il ne s'opposerait pas néanmoins à ce que l'on donnât au Chapitre un développement plus considérable.

M. de Kallay dit qu'en effet le Projet lui paraît contenir toutes les bases que la Commission est en état de fournir pour la future réforme; un travail plus circonstancié serait en dehors des moyens et du temps dont dispose la réunion.

La Commission décide d'ajourner le débat sur le Chapitre XIV à une séance ultérieure.

M. de Coutouly annonce à la Commission que M. Schmidt a été forcé, par des incidents regrettables qui se sont produits à Yamboli et à Slivno, d'interrompre son voyage d'inspection, dont la Commission entendra le récit dans le Rapport suivant adressé au Comité des Finances par le Directeur-Général:

"Rapport.

"Lundi matin, le 10 courant, j'ai quitté Haskeui et je suis arrivé à Yamboli à 6 heures du soir. Conformément à une offre faite par le Préfet de Police de Slivno, je l'avais prié de m'envoyer des voitures à Yamboli pour partir la nuit même pour Slivno.

"Comme ces voitures n'étaient pas arrivées, j'envoyai mon secrétaire en ville, pour avertir le Chef d'Arrondissement de mon arrivée et de mon intention de partir aussitôt que possible pour Slivno. Après deux heures, le Chef d'Arrondissement vint me trouver à la gare et m'emmena chez lui; il avait établi un petit corps de garde dans la maison, qu'il renvoya ensuite parce que la ville était tout-à-fait tranquille, comme nous nous en étions aperçus en faisant une longue promenade.

"Pendant la nuit deux gendarmes étaient arrivés de la part du Gouverneur de Slivno pour m'accompagner dans cette ville.

"Les voitures commandées pour 7 heures du matin n'arrivèrent qu'à 7 heures et demie, et en même temps le Chef d'Arrondissement vint me prévenir qu'il était impossible de partir, la maison étant cernée par une foule tumultueuse. Les deux issues de la cour étaient défendues par le Natchalnik, le Commissaire Russe, les deux gendarmes Russes de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général et quelques gendarmes Bulgares, de sorte que la foule ne pouvait pas entrer dans la cour située immédiatement devant la maison.

"Les deux voitures furent brisées par la population pour empêcher mon départ.

"Lorsque le Natchalnik avait vu qu'il était impuissant à dissiper la foule et lorsqu'il s'était persuadé que la sécurité même de ma personne était menacée, il avait envoyé au Commandant de la place, Colonel Sliasévitch, pour réquisitionner des troupes. La première lettre n'avait pas été bien comprise et on n'y donna pas suite: alors il en expédia une autre par son interprète Bulgare. La foule ne le laissa pas passer. Le Natchalnik envoya alors un Cosaque: la foule lui déchira la lettre et le Cosaque revint. Un dernier messager enfin réussit à traverser la foule et à donner des nouvelles de la situation au Commandant des troupes, qui arriva vers 10 heures, et bientôt quelques Cosaques arrivèrent également.

"En attendant on avait mis le feu à la maison. Le Commissaire de Police s'en était aperçu, et pour éteindre le feu il devait se frayer un passage à travers la foule. On voulait l'en empêcher, on l'insulta, on le battit, et on lui arracha ses galons. Les gendarmes Russes, pris pour des gendarmes Anglais, furent également insultés par la foule.

"La foule commença à faire un trou dans le mur pour entrer dans la cour, lorsque vers 11 heures des troupes arrivèrent.

"Le Général Tiklmenieff, Commandant des Etapes, était absent, le Général Markosoff, Commandant des Hôpitaux, arriva, et après m'avoir dit qu'il n'y avait plus rien à craindre, il parla longuement à la foule pour la décider à me laisser partir. La foule y consentit enfin et exprima le désir de me voir; je me déclarai immédiatement prêt à sortir de la cour intérieure mais le Général s'y opposa, et demanda à la foule de choisir une députation.

"Avant que la députation ne se présentât, le Natchalnik m'avait remis l'Adresse que je joins en original au présent Rapport.

"La députation, composée de seize à dix-huit personnes, me reçut très-respectueusement, m'obligea à serrer la main à chacun de ses membres, et m'assura que la démonstration n'était nullement dirigée contre ma personne, mais contre la Commission Européenne. Cette Commission voulait ramener le Gouvernement Turc et se mêler des affaires financières du pays, changer les employés élus par le peuple et remettre l'argent, qui appartient aux veuves et aux orphelins du pays, au Sultan à Constantinople. Jamais la population ne permettrait cela, et on se ferait plutôt tuer que d'accepter l'Administration Financière de la Commission.

"Je demandai aux députés si durant les quatre mois de mon administration les employés avaient été changés; ils durent répondre que non. Je demandai s'ils savaient dans quelle langue je correspondais avec les employés; ils savaient que c'était en langue Bulgare; ils savaient que dans l'Administration Centrale à Philippopoli la plupart des employés étaient des Bulgares. Mais alors ils parlaient de l'impossibilité d'accepter le Traité de Berlin, après que le Traité de San Stéfano leur avait donné l'indépendance.

"La députation me pria de faire connaître l'opinion du peuple à la Commission Européenne, et me quitta en m'assurant que je n'avais rien à craindre pour ma personne.

"Après vint encore une députation de femmes pour protester contre la Commission,

le retour des Turcs, &c. Les femmes me disaient que j'étais un Anglais envoyé par le Sultan pour leur prendre leur argent.

"Les nouvelles voitures, qui avaient été commandées, arrivèrent vers midi et demi et je pus enfin quitter la ville de Yamboli pour me rendre à Slivno.

"La foule se tenait tranquillement sur les places en laissant la voie libre aux voitures, qui étaient escortées par un détachement d'infanterie et des Cosaques. Le pont de la Toundja était cerné par des troupes et le cortége sortit de la ville sans être aucunement molesté.

"Je partis de Yamboli à midi et demi avec deux gendarmes Russes et un Bulgare dans les voitures, et deux gendarmes Bulgares et huit Cosaques qui suivaient à cheval.

"Vers 3 heures je rencontrai le Vice-Gouverneur de Slivno, M. Rimski Korsakoff, qui était venu à ma rencontre avec un Cosaque et trois gendarmes. Il me dit que j'étais attendu par une foule nombreuse, mais que tout se passerait bien.

"Toutefois, il engagea un colonel Russe, Commandant du 34e Régiment de Cosaques, qui était en route pour Slivno, avec sa famille, et qui était accompagné de quatre Cosaques à ne pas s'avancer et à attendre les événements.

"Arrivés près de Slivno, nous vîmes une foule compacte qui stationnait devant la ville.

"Le Sous-Gouverneur alla en avant avec quelques Cosaques pour faire une reconnaissance; nos voitures le suivirent. Lorsque nous fûmes à 200 mètres à peu près de la foule, deux individus arrêtèrent la voiture, arrachèrent les brides d'un cheval, et crièrent que les habitants ne permettraient pas que l'Anglais entrât dans la ville. Au même instant le Vice-Gouverneur revint avec le Maître de Police, également officier Russe. Ces deux fonctionnaires me conjurèrent de faire retourner immédiatement les voitures, l'affaire étant très-grave et ma vie sérieusement menacée. Le Gouverneur était dans la foule, estimée à 8,000 individus, mais il n'avait pas appelé de troupes pour contenir la populace.

"J'ai dû céder aux instances du Vice-Gouverneur et du Maître de Police, et j'ai donné l'ordre de tourner les voitures.

"Lorsque la foule s'en est aperçue, elle poussa des cris et s'élança vers nous. Le Vice-Gouverneur, pour assurer ma retraite, chargea la foule, mais ne put pas l'arrêter. On lança des pierres contre les Cosaques, et le Vice-Gouverneur lui-même fut atteint par une pierre.

"La foule continua à me suivre et une partie alla jusqu'au pont de la Toundja, éloigné de Slivno de 10 kilom. environ; là les hommes s'établirent pour empêcher mon retour.

"Le Colonel du 34e Régiment de Cosaques, qui essayait de traverser la foule pour aller à Slivno, fut insulté et obligé de rebrousser chemin et de retourner à Yamboli.

"Je rentrai moi-même à Yamboli pour attendre les résolutions que la Commission Européenne et le Gouverneur-Général prendraient pour me rendre possible l'exécution de mon mandat.

"Le Vice-Gouverneur était également venu à Yamboli et m'avait rejoint en route, en me félicitant d'avoir échappé à un mauvais tour de la populace.

"A Yamboli je reçus vers 9 heures du soir la visite du Général Tikhmenieff, Commandant des étapes, qui me fit la déclaration suivante, lorsque je l'informai de mon intention de rester à Yamboli jusqu'à ce que j'aie reçu des nouvelles de Philippopoli:

"'Après la sédition de ce matin, j'ai tout lieu d'attendre que la même manifestation aura lieu demain à l'aube du jour.

"'La révolte précédente était fait par 3,000 personnes qui tenaient des pierres en main. Le Général Markosoff a causé avec le peuple ce matin; il a employé différentes raisons pour l'apaiser, mais il n'y est parvenu qu'en garantissant notre départ immédiat. Ainsi demain la négociation avec la population ne pourra aboutir qu'à la même chose. Sans garantir au peuple votre départ immédiat, il se trouvera des gens qui lanceront des pierres contre vous. Et comme je ne pourrai pas souffrir cela, je dois penser à ce que je pourrai faire alors.

"'Les arguments sont épuisés. La présence seule des soldats par son effet moral ne suffit pas, parce qu'il ne se trouve ici que 300 soldats Russes environ, dont je puis disposer; il y a encore une droujina Bulgare, mais je ne puis pas me fier à elle en pareille occasion.

"'Je serai donc réduit à faire usage des armes, et je n'ai pas le droit de le faire. Sans avoir cet ordre, je ne peux pas même garantir votre sécurité personnelle.

"'Pour ces raisons, il est de mon devoir de vous prier de quitter immédiatement la ville et de vous installer pour la nuit à la station du chemin de fer, où j'ai fait préparer un wagon pour vous, et où toutes les mesures seront prises pour garantir votre sécurité personnelle jusqu'au départ du train.'

"En présence d'une déclaration aussi formelle, je devais renoncer à mon projet d'attendre les résolutions de la Commission à Yamboli, et je me rendis à la gare, conduit par le Natchalnik et le Vice-Gouverneur de Slivno, et escorté d'une vingtaine de soldats.

"Chemin faisant nous entrâmes dans un restaurant pour manger quelque chose. Vers minuit nous sortîmes; alors le Natchalnik me dit qu'il croyait de son devoir de me dire qu'il avait reçu le soir une dépêche du Gouverneur de Slivno, qui m'engageait à venir de nouveau dans cette ville.

"Je reprochai au Natchalnik de ne pas m'avoir communiqué cette dépêche lorsque je discutais avec le Général. Le Vice-Gouverneur me conseilla de suivre l'avis du Général; d'après lui le Gouverneur était peut-être trop optimiste, d'autant plus qu'un officier retourné de Slivno avait raconté que la population installée sur le pont avait fait venir des fusils et des cartouches.

"Vu ce conseil et la déclaration formelle du Général, je décidai de partir pour Philippopoli. Mais je priai le Natchalnik de soumettre immédiatement au Général Tikhmenieff la dépêche en question, et de le prier de m'envoyer un message à la station, s'il croyait pouvoir garantir mon départ tranquille pour Slivno. N'ayant rien reçu, je suis parti le matin et arrivé ce soir à Philippopoli.

"'*Adresse à M. Schmidt, le Directeur des Finances d'ainsi dite la Roumélie Orientale.*

"'Comme vous êtes le représentant d'une Commission chargée de réinstaller l'autorité Turque dans notre province, il nous est impossible de vous confier les Caisses; déjà confiées aux employés élus par nous autres.'

"'Il fallait venir à notre aide dans le temps des fameux massacres de nous protéger de le barbarisme Turque pour avoir maintenant le droit de les réclamer.

"'Veuillez, &c.

("'Les habitants de la ville de Yamboli avec les environs.)

"'*Yamboli, le 27 Février*, 1879.'"

A la suite d'un échange d'idées entre tous les Commissaires, il demeure entendu que la Commission tiendra le 13 Mars une séance extraordinaire dans laquelle M. Schmidt sera prié de développer le Rapport dont il vient d'être donné lecture.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée au 14 Mars:

La continuation du débat sur le Chapitre VII: "Finances."

La séance est levée à 7 heures un quart.

(Signé) RING.
COUTOULY.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
DONOUGHMORE.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) ROZEF.
ISVOLSKY.
NELIM.

No. 369.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 16.)

(No. 153.) *Constantinople, April* 4, 1879.

My Lord,

I ARRIVED here on Tuesday evening. On Monday evening I saw Réouf Pasha at Adrianople. His Excellency expressed himself strongly in favour of a mixed occupation as the only means of maintaining order in Eastern Roumelia, on the evacuation by Russia, and of securing a peaceful inauguration of the new system.

His Excellency expressed himself also in favour of a European Governor.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 370.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 16.)

(No. 154.) *Constantinople, April* 4, 1879.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY I called on his Excellency Carathéodory Pasha, as well as on the Grand Vizier.

I met M. de Kallay in the waiting room, and we were received at the same, first by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and later by Khaïreddin Pasha.

Our conversation with Carathéodory Pasha turned exclusively on different points of the Statute.

The Grand Vizier, with whom we had only a very short interview, touched on the question of the joint occupation, but very briefly; asking us our opinion, I merely said that my own personal view was that such an occupation would be a practical method of carrying out our Statute, and his Highness rejoined that in the present state of the Turkish administration and finances, he did not see how it could be avoided.

Neither M. de Kallay nor myself, however, concealed from Carathéodory Pasha the very dangerous state of affairs in Eastern Roumelia, nor the difficulties to be encountered in the face of an armed population, excited by native and foreign intrigues.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 371.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 16.)

(No. 155.) *Pera, April* 4, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the 48th, 51st, and 52nd Protocols.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 371.

Protocole No. 48.—*Séance du* $\frac{21 \text{ Février}}{5 \text{ Mars}}$, 1879 (14 *Rébi-ul-Evel*, 1296), *à la Maison de la Commission Européenne à Philippopoli.*

Présidence de M. de KALLAY.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schepelew,
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Le Protocole No. 45, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

M. de Coutouly annonce que M. le Baron de Ring, indisposé, l'a prié de le remplacer.

M. de Kallay prend la présidence, et donne lecture des quatre lettres suivantes, adressées par le Baron de Ring au Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale, conformément à ce qui a été discuté dans la séance extraordinaire du 5 Mars:

"M. le Gouverneur-Général, "*Philippopoli, le* $\frac{21 \text{ Février}}{5 \text{ Mars}}$, 1879.

"Je suis chargé par la Commission Européenne de la Roumélie Orientale de demander à votre Excellence:

"1. A titre de renseignement, communication d'une pièce détaillant les sommes entrées dans la Caisse du Sandjak de Philippopoli qui proviennent des revenus de la Roumélie Orientale;

"2. Communication du compte détaillé et certifié des dépenses faites sur ces sommes avant et après le $\frac{1}{7}$ Octobre;

"3. Communication en copie ou en analyse des Décrets en vertu desquels ces dépenses ont été effectuées;

"4. Remise du solde actuel de la Caisse;

"5. Communication des Décrets en vertu desquels des dépenses sur les sommes formant le montant de ce solde devront être faites à l'avenir par les soins de l'Administration Financière de la Roumélie Orientale.

"En vous présentant ces demandes par mon entremise, la Commission Européenne n'entend vérifier ni la légitimité des Décrets ci-dessus visés, ni l'utilité des dépenses ordonnées par ces Décrets.

"Je crois devoir ajouter, pour prévenir toute méprise, que si la Commission vous réclame des documents antérieurs à la date du $\frac{1}{7}$ Octobre, ce n'est point dans la pensée d'exercer rétrospectivement un contrôle sur les agissements de l'Administration Financière qui a précédé la sienne, mais simplement pour pouvoir établir sa propre comptabilité. Comme en effet l'administration Russe ne s'est trouvée en mesure, ni à la date précitée, ni depuis, de lui présenter un compte de liquidation de sa gestion, la Commission, pour assurer la régularité des services placés sous son autorité, ne peut pas se dispenser de s'informer d'une foule de détails qui ne l'intéresseraient aucunement si une telle liquidation avait été faite.

"Veuillez, &c.

"Le Président Temporaire de la Commission Européenne,
(Signé) "N. DE RING."

"M. le Gouverneur-Général, "*Philippopoli, le* 5 *Mars*, 1879.

"J'ai l'honneur de prévenir votre Excellence qu'en conformité des instructions qu'il a reçues de la Commission Européenne de la Roumélie Orientale, M. Schmidt, Directeur-Général des Finances de la province, partira Samedi prochain pour une tournée d'inspection.

"Il se rendra le premier jour à Haskeui, et visitera ensuite successivement les villes de Yeni-Zaghra, Yamboli, Slivno, Karnabad, Aïdos, Bourgas, Akhiolou, et Messembria.

"Veuillez, &c.

"Le Président Temporaire de la Commission Européenne,
(Signé) "N. DE RING."

"M. le Gouverneur-Général, "*Philippopoli, le* 5 *Mars*, 1879.

"En vertu d'une décision prise par la Commission Européenne de la Roumélie Orientale, j'ai l'honneur de vous envoyer, ci-joint, copie d'un Rapport de M. le Directeur-Général des Finances rendant compte d'un incident regrettable qui s'est produit à Abrachilar à l'occasion de la venue en cette ville d'un agent de son Administration. Je suis chargé de prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien faire parvenir à qui de droit les instructions nécessaires, afin que ledit agent puisse retourner à Abrachilar pour y remplir son office sans entraves. Votre Excellence voudra bien remarquer qu'à Abrachilar, comme en d'autres localités où les employés des finances Roumélioles ont rencontré de la résistance de la part de la population, celle-ci a essayé de justifier son attitude hostile par la crainte que l'argent de la province ne fût donné au Sultan. Il y a lieu de croire que cette crainte n'existerait pas dans les esprits, et que l'Administration Russe n'en aurait pas à regretter avec nous les conséquences, si la population avait été suffisamment éclairée sur la nature du mandat financier confié à la Commission Européenne par le Traité de Berlin, ainsi que sur les actes par lesquels la Commission a constitué l'Administration des Finances Roumélioles.

"A ce propos, il me sera permis d'appeler l'attention de votre Excellence, sur le fait que la Commission n'a pas encore été officiellement informée de la suite qui aurait été donnée à la Résolution voté par elle dans sa séance du $\frac{21 \text{ Octobre}}{2 \text{ Novembre}}$ 1878, touchant la publication des actes susdits.

"Veuillez, &c.

"Le Président Temporaire de la Commission Européenne,
(Signé) "N. DE RING."

"M. le Gouverneur-Général, "*Philippopoli, le* $\frac{21 \text{ Février}}{5 \text{ Mars}}$, 1879.

"J'ai l'honneur de prier votre Excellence, au nom de la Commission Européenne de la Roumélie Orientale:

"1. De vouloir bien inviter son Excellence le Baron Hübsch de Grossthal, Gouverneur de Philippopoli, à communiquer à M. le Directeur-Général des Finances copie de la circulaire qu'il a dû adresser aux autorités des arrondissements pour annuler sa circulaire du 8 Décembre (v.s.).

"2. D'informer la Commission si les ordres contenus dans la circulaire de votre Excellence en date du $\frac{13}{25}$ Février ont été exécutés et si, en conséquence, les Conseils Administratifs des arrondissements ont reçu par le canal de Messieurs les Gouverneurs de Philippopoli et de Slivno des instructions leur prescrivant de fournir aux employés des finances tous les renseignements que ceux-ci pourraient leur demander touchant des questions de leur ressort;

"3. De communiquer le texte des dites instructions à la Commission ou de prendre des mesures afin qu'il soit communiqué au Directeur-Général des Finances par Messieurs les Gouverneurs de Philippopoli et de Slivno.

"Veuillez, &c.

"Le Président Temporaire de la Commission Européenne,
(Signé) "N. DE RING."

L'ordre du jour appelle la discussion sur le projet du Chapitre IX: "des Autorités Judiciaires," déposé par M. de Kallay à la séance du 4 Mars.

M. Rozet donne lecture de ce travail:

XI.—*Des Autorités Judiciaires.*

I.—*Dispositions Générales.*

Article 1er. La justice est rendue en matière civile et en matière criminelle par les autorités suivantes:—

1. Les Maires des communes rurales;
2. Les Juges de Canton;
3. Les Tribunaux de département;
4. La Cour d'Appel.

Art. 2. Il n'y a que deux degrés de juridiction.

Art. 3. La juridiction en Première Instance est exercée:

1. Par les six Tribunaux de département, qui siégent aux chefs-lieux des six départements de la Roumélie Orientale. Ces Tribunaux de département se composent de deux sections; savoir, la section civile et la section criminelle;

2. Par les Juges de Canton, assistés de leurs Assesseurs;

3. Par les Maires des communes rurales, assistés de leurs Assesseurs, dans toutes les communes rurales où il n'y a pas de Juge de Canton.

Art. 4. La juridiction en appel est dévolue aux Tribunaux de département et à la Cour d'Appel siégeant à Philippopoli.

Art. 5. Dans la composition des autorités judiciaires il y a des Magistrats proprement dits et des Assesseurs ou Juges temporaires.

Art. 6. Sont Magistrats proprement dits ou Juges perpétuels:

1. Les Juges de Canton;
2. Les Présidents et les membres des Tribunaux de département;
3. Les Présidents et Conseillers de la Cour d'Appel.

Art. 7. Sont Assesseurs ou Juges temporaires:

1. Les Maires des communes rurales ayant des fonctions judiciaires;
2. Les Assesseurs Judiciaires du Maire de commune rurale;
3. Les Assesseurs des Juges de Canton;
4. Les Assesseurs des Tribunaux civils de département dans les questions commerciales.

Art. 8. Les Juges perpétuels sont nommés par le Gouverneur-Général de la province et ils sont inamovibles, sauf le cas de destitution par jugement.

Les Juges temporaires sont nommés par la population et seront indéfiniment rééligibles.

Les Juges perpétuels ont un traitement régulier.

Les Juges temporaires reçoivent pour les audiences auxquelles ils ont pris part une indemnité fixée par les Conseils Généraux.

Les dispositions de détail sont fixées par le Règlement Provisoire annexé au présent Chapitre.

Art. 9. Sont incapables d'être élus Juges temporaires:

1. Ceux qui ne savant ni lire ni écrire;
2. Les domestiques et serviteurs à gages;
3. Ceux à qui l'exercice des droits civils, politiques ou de famille a été interdit conformément à la loi pénale;
4. Les faillis non réhabilités;
5. Ceux qui sont en état d'accusation ou de contumace;
6. Ceux qui sont condamnés à des peines afflictives ou infamantes ou pour quelque délit commis par avidité de gain, ou pour tout autre délit emportant un emprisonnement d'une année.

Sont également exclus de l'élection les fonctionnaires publics et les militaires en activité de service.

Art. 10. Les Tribunaux ecclésiastiques, c'est-à-dire les Tribunaux du Chériat pour les Musulmans, et les autorités ecclésiastiques des autres cultes ayant fonctions judiciaires ne seront désormais compétents qu'en matière de questions relatives à l'état civil des personnes et de tutelle.

Toutes questions immobilières, d'héritage ou autres qui étaient jusqu'ici de leur compétence seront à l'avenir du ressort des Tribunaux Civils.

Art. 11. Auprès de chaque Tribunal statuant en matière criminelle il y a un fonctionnaire chargé du ministère public.

Art. 12. Toute personne comparaissant devant le Tribunal, soit civil, soit criminel, a le droit de confier sa défense à un Conseil chargé de porter la parole pour elle, à moins qu'il ne s'agisse de répondre à un interrogatoire.

La partie étant présente, ce Conseil n'aura pas besoin d'exhiber de pouvoirs.

Art. 13. Les audiences sont publiques, et les jugements et arrêts rendus en audience publique, sauf le cas où, pour des motifs de moralité, le huis clos serait nécessaire.

Dans tous les cas où l'honneur et le crédit du plaignant l'exigeraient absolument, les Tribunaux peuvent ordonner la publication de l'extrait du jugement dans la principale feuille de la province aux frais de la partie condamnée.

Art. 14. Le témoignage, dans le cas où il est admis par la loi, sera reçu de toute personne sans distinction de religion, sous serment prêté séance tenante suivant les formes en usage et avant la déposition.

Art. 15. Les sentences pénales définitives seront exécutées par l'autorité administrative.

Aucun criminel condamné à mort ne pourra être exécuté sans que sa condamnation ne soit sanctionnée par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Art. 16. L'exécution des jugements civils est dévolue aux Tribunaux. Elle est progressivement mobilière, immobilière, et personnelle, sans distinction de religion et de position sociale.

L'exécution immobilière pourra porter sur toute espèce de propriété, aucun immeuble ne pouvant désormais être aliénable.

Art. 17. L'exécution de tout jugement est suspendue s'il y a appel, et l'appelant n'est pas tenu de fournir de sécurités, sauf le cas où l'exécution provisoire est permise par la loi ou prononcée par le Tribunal avec ou sans caution, et sans préjudices des mesures conservatoires que les parties demanderont ou que le Tribunal estimera nécessaires en matière civile aussi bien qu'en matière pénale.

II.—*Dispositions Spéciales.*

(A.)—*Autorités Judiciaires Civiles.*

Art. 18. Connaissent de matière civile :—

1. Les Maires des communes rurales, quand il s'agit d'actions immobilières dont l'objet ne dépasse 500 piastres.

2. Les Juges de Canton quand il s'agit de questions mobilières jusqu'à concurrence de 10,000 piastres, sauf les questions commerciales.

3. La section civile des Tribunaux de département quand il s'agit de questions mobilières, immobilières, et commerciales, sauf celles réservées aux Juges de Canton et aux Tribunaux ecclésiastiques.

(*a.*)—*Maires de Communes Rurales.*

Art. 19. Dans le cas prévu par l'Article 3, alinéa 3, le Maire d'une commune rurale a fonctions de Juge.

Il rend la justice gratuitement.

Art. 20. Le Maire d'une commune rurale n'exerce ces fonctions que pour les différends qui surgissent entre les membres de la communauté dont il est le chef administratif.

Ces fonctions sont dévolues dans les communes indiquées dans l'Article 80 du Chapitre VI, à chacun des Maires de section de commune.

Art. 21. Le Maire d'une commune rurale est assisté dans ses fonctions de Juge de deux Assesseurs, qui ont voix consultative seulement; mais leur avis, que le Maire n'est pas obligé de suivre, devra être consigné dans la feuille d'audience qui contiendra la décision de ce dernier.

Art. 22. Les Conseils Municipaux des communes procéderont chaque année, à la majorité des voix, à l'élection des Assesseurs au nombre de quatre, qui seront de service, deux par deux, pendant six mois.

Art. 23. En cas de décès ou de révocation d'un Assesseur, les dits Conseils procéderont immédiatement à la nomination d'un remplaçant.

Art. 24. En cas d'empêchement légitime d'un Assesseur, il sera remplacé par un de ses collègues qui n'est pas de service dans le semestre.

Art. 25. Toutes plaintes quelconques, dirigées par le Maire d'une commune rurale ou toute autre personne contre les Assesseurs, relativement à l'exercice de leurs fonctions, et, sauf le cas où elles pourraient donner lieu à une poursuite criminelle, seront portées devant le Conseil Municipal de la commune, qui en connaîtra, à la majorité des voix, et pourra prononcer une amende ou même la révocation de l'Assesseur.

Art. 26. Pour toutes actions autres que celles désignées par la section 1re de l'Article 18, le Maire d'une commune rurale se déclare incompétent et renvoie les parties à se pourvoir par devant l'autorité compétente.

Art. 27. Les jugements rendus par les Maires des communes rurales ne sont pas susceptibles d'appel.

(*b.*)—*Juges de Canton.*

Art. 28. Chaque canton est divisé en plusieurs circonscriptions judiciaires dont le nombre est déterminé par une loi provinciale.

Art. 29. Chacune de ces circonscriptions judiciaires est confiée à un Juge Cantonal.

Art. 30. Le Juge, qui doit être un Magistrat, est assisté par deux Assesseurs ayant voix consultative.

Art. 31. Les Assesseurs sont élus par les Conseils Municipaux de toutes les communes qui se trouvent situées dans la même circonscription judiciaire.

Art. 32. Le nombre de ces Assesseurs pour chaque circonscription judiciaire est de quatre, avec deux suppléants, pour les remplacer en cas d'absence ou d'empêchement.

Art. 33. Toutes les règles établies pour les Assesseurs du Maire d'une commune rurale sont applicables aux Assesseurs du Juge de Canton, avec la différence que les plaintes contre eux seront portées par devant la Commission Départementale.

Dans tous les autres cas graves, le Juge pourra suspendre un Assesseur de ses fonctions, et le faire provisoirement remplacer par un suppléant, jusqu'à la décision de la Commission Départementale.

Art. 34. Il y a auprès de chaque Juge de Canton un greffier Assesseur assermenté, chargé du dépôt des pièces sous sa responsabilité personnelle et de la rédaction des minutes.

Il est secondé dans ces fonctions par un personnel suffisant de commis-greffiers et d'huissiers. Le service de ces derniers pourra être rempli par des gendarmes.

Art. 35. Le Juge de Canton connaît de toutes actions qui sont de sa compétence à charge d'appel; l'appel est porté devant le Tribunal du département dans lequel se trouve la circonscription judiciaire du Juge de Canton.

(*c.*)—*Tribunaux de Département.*

Art. 36. La section civile de chaque Tribunal de département est composée de trois membres perpétuels, dont un Président et deux Juges.

Art. 37. Il y a au Tribunal de département quatre Assesseurs et deux Assesseurs suppléants.

Ces Assesseurs, en nombre de deux, siégent seulement lorsque le Tribunal est saisi de questions commerciales.

Ils ont voix délibérative.

Art. 38. Les Assesseurs sont choisis au commencement de chaque année par le Conseil-Général, parmi les négociants domiciliés au siége du Tribunal.

Les règles concernant les Assesseurs du Juge Cantonal, qui sont contenues à l'Article 34, leur sont également applicables.

Art. 39. La section civile des Tribunaux de département connaît de toutes actions à charge d'appel.

Art. 40. La procédure à suivre en matière civile par les Tribunaux de département est celle du Code de Procédure Commerciale Ottoman, tant qu'il n'y est pas dérogé par les règles fixées dans le présent Statut.

Art. 41. Il y a dans chaque Tribunal de département un nombre suffisant de greffiers et huissiers relevant de l'autorité du Président.

Art. 42. Pour tout ce qui concerne le service intérieur de la section civile des Tribunaux de département on appliquera les règles tracées par le Titre IV de l'Appendice au Code de Commerce Ottoman, en tant qu'il n'y est pas dérogé par les dispositions du présent Statut.

Art. 43. L'appel des jugements rendus par la section civile de Tribunaux de département est porté devant la Cour d'Appel.

(B.)—*Autorités Judiciaires, Criminelles et Correctionnelles.*

Art. 44. Connaissent de matière criminelle et correctionnelle :

1. Les Maires des communes rurales ;
2. Les Juges de Canton ;
3. Les Tribunaux de département ;
4. La Cour d'Appel.

(a.)—*Maires de Communes rurales.*

Art. 45. Les Maires de communes rurales connaissent des contraventions de police, commises dans leur circonscription administrative, jusqu'à concurrence d'une condamnation de vingt-quatre heures ou d'une amende de 100 piastres.

Art. 46. Le Maire d'une commune rurale est chargé de la recherche et de la punition des contraventions indiquées dans l'Article précédent.

Art. 47. Lorsqu'il aura connaissance d'une contravention commise dans la commune qui lui est confiée il procédera immédiatement.

Art. 48. Les Arrêts du Maire de la commune rurale ne sont pas susceptibles d'appel.

(b.)—*Juges de Canton.*

Art. 49. Les fonctions du Juge de Canton en matière criminelle sont doubles :

1. Il est juge connaissant et rendant Arrêt, quand il s'agit de contraventions et de délits, dans tous les cas où la condamnation n'excède pas un mois de prison ou 1,000 piastres d'amende;

2. Il remplit des fonctions de Juge d'Instruction dans tous les cas où il s'agit de crimes ou délits comportant une condamnation excédant le maximum sus-indiqué.

Art. 50. Dans les cas précisés par le premier alinéa de l'Article précédent qui viendront à sa connaissance, il procédera d'office à l'examen de l'affaire sans en donner avis au parquet du Tribunal du département.

Art. 51. Dans les cas indiqués dans le premier alinéa du même Article, le prévenu ne peut être ni contraint par corps à comparaître, ni emprisonné.

Art. 52. Dans les cas susmentionnés, le Juge connaît également des dommages-intérêts de la partie civile, jusqu'à concurrence du montant auquel est limité sa compétence en matière civile.

Art. 53. Tous les Arrêts du Juge de Canton en matière criminelle sont susceptibles d'appel.

L'appel est porté devant le Tribunal du département où se trouve la circonscription du Juge.

(c.)—*Tribunaux de Département.*

Art. 54. La section criminelle de chaque Tribunal de département est composée :

1. De trois Juges perpétuels, l'un d'eux remplissant les fonctions de Président;

2. Du Procureur chargé du Ministère Public; un ou plusieurs substituts peuvent être adjoints au Procureur si le besoin s'en fait sentir;

3. D'un ou plusieurs Juges d'Instruction.

Art. 55. Il y a dans la section criminelle de chaque Tribunal de département un nombre suffisant de greffiers assermentés et de commis-greffiers.

Art. 56. Les fonctions de Juge d'Instruction sont remplies par les Juges de Canton, et, en cas d'insuffisance de ces derniers, par les Juges d'Instruction attachés au Tribunal de département.

Art. 57. Sauf le cas de flagrant délit, le Juge d'Instruction ne pourra procéder contre qui que ce soit sans autorisation préalable du Procureur.

Art. 58. En cas de flagrant délit, le Juge d'Instruction et le Juge de Canton ayant fonctions de Juge d'Instruction procèdent d'office à l'arrestation du criminel, à l'inspection des lieux, et à tout autre acte judiciaire, sauf à en donner connaissance au Procureur dans les vingt-quatre heures.

Art. 59. Peuvent procéder également les Maires des communes rurales et les officiers et sous-officiers de la gendarmerie à l'arrestation de tout criminel en flagrant délit, sauf à en donner avis au Procureur du département, soit directement, soit par l'entremise de leurs préposés, dans les vingt-quatre heures.

Art. 60. Sauf les cas prévus dans les précédents Articles, nul ne pourra être arrêté ou privé de sa liberté personnelle que sur un mandat d'arrêt délivré par le Procureur du département ou par un Juge d'Instruction procédant en son nom.

Art. 61. Le Juge d'Instruction peut lancer des mandats d'amener ou d'arrêter contre toute personne dont la comparution ou l'arrestation devient nécessaire pendant le cours d'instruction qui leur a été ordonnée par le réquisitoire du Procureur.

Art. 62. L'instruction achevée, le Juge d'Instruction adresse son Rapport au Procureur.

Art. 63. Le Procureur dresse l'acte d'accusation d'après le Rapport du Juge d'Instruction.

Art. 64. Le Tribunal prononce son arrêt, ouïs l'accusé, la partie civile, et le Ministère Public.

Art. 65. Tout Arrêt du Tribunal est susceptible d'appel qui est porté devant la Cour d'Appel.

Art. 66. Ont droit de faire appel le condamné, la partie civile, et le Ministère Public.

(C.)—*Cour d'Appel.*

Art. 67. La Cour d'Appel est divisée en deux sections, à savoir : la section civile et la section criminelle.

Art. 68. La première section est subdivisée en trois Chambres :—

1. La Chambre des causes en matière immobilière;
2. La Chambre des causes en matière mobilière;
3. La Chambre des causes en matière commerciale.

Art. 69. La seconde section est subdivisée en deux Chambres :—

1. La Chambre criminelle;
2. La Chambre correctionnelle.

Art. 70. Le Président de la Première Chambre de chaque section a le titre de premier Président et les autres celui de deuxième Président.

Art. 71. Le premier Président a la gestion et la direction interne de sa section.

Art. 72. Chaque Chambre est composée du Président, de quatre Juges perpétuels qui ont le titre de Conseillers, et d'un personnel suffisant de greffiers et d'huissiers.

Art. 73. Le service interne de chaque Chambre est réglé d'après les dispositions du Titre IV de l'Appendice au Code de Commerce Ottoman.

Art. 74. Tous les fonctionnaires de la Cour d'Appel, commis-greffiers compris, sont assermentés.

Art. 75. On entend par sections réunies la réunion des cinq Présidents de la Cour et d'un Conseiller de la Première Chambre de chaque section.

Les sections réunies sont convoquées et présidées par le Président de la Première Chambre de la première section.

Art. 76. La réunion des sections aura lieu pour statuer sur les conflits de compétence qui pourraient surgir entre les différentes Chambres ou les Tribunaux inférieurs, ainsi que se prononcer sur les modifications ou réformes que pourraient nécessiter le service interne de la Cour et des Tribunaux.

Art. 77. Les sections réunies connaîtront également des plaintes contre tous Magistrats de la province, en tant que ces plaintes ne constitueront pas des délits ou des crimes du ressort de la justice répressive.

Art. 78. La réunion des sections a lieu quand elle est réclamée par le Président d'une des Chambres de la Cour ou par le Ministère Public moyennant réquisitoire au Président de la première section.

(D.)—*Ministère Public.*

Art. 79. Les fonctions du Ministère Public sont remplies à la Cour d'Appel par un Procureur-Général.

Art. 80. Il y a deux substituts pour le service des audiences aux Chambres de la Cour et deux substituts pour le service de son parquet.

Art. 81. Les substituts affectés au service des Chambres auront le titre d'Avocats-Généraux.

Art. 82. Le Ministère Public exerce l'action de la justice criminelle dans toute l'étendue de la province; il veille au maintien de l'ordre dans tous les Tribunaux; il a la surveillance de tous les officiers de la police judiciaire.

Art. 83. En matière civile, le Ministère Public agit d'office toutes les fois qu'il s'agit de l'intérêt de la loi, surveille l'exécution des lois, des arrêts, des jugements, et poursuit cette exécution dans les dispositions qui intéressent l'ordre public.

Art. 84. Les substituts du Procureur-Général exercent identiquement les mêmes fonctions sous sa surveillance et sa direction.

Art. 85. Les Juges d'Appel ne seront nullement astreints à suivre dans leurs décisions l'avis émis par le Ministère Public.

Ils feront droit à ses conclusions ou aux conclusions contraires de toute autre partie selon leur propre conviction.

Règlement Provisoire sur les Autorités Judiciaires.

I.—*Dispositions Générales.*

Article 1er. Par dérogation provisoire au principe d'inamovibilité des Juges, tous les Magistrats qui n'ont pas de connaissances spéciales ne seront nommés que pour un terme de quatre ans; passé ce terme, ils pourront être rendus inamovibles par un Décret du Gouverneur-Général, rendu sur l'avis conforme du Comité Permanent et du Conseil Privé.

Art. 2. Les questions de successions entre Musulmans sont réservées aux Tribunaux ecclésiastiques Musulmans.

Art. 3. Les règles concernant la procédure actuellement en vigueur seront maintenues en tant qu'il n'y est pas dérogé par le Statut et le présent Règlement Provisoire.

II.—*Dispositions Spéciales.*

(A.)—*Autorités Judiciaires Civiles.*

(*a.*)—*Maires de Communes Rurales.*

Art. 4. Le Maire d'une commune rurale doit toujours se prêter aux constatations judiciaires pour lesquelles il est requis, même lorsqu'il s'agit d'une affaire qui n'est pas de sa compétence judiciaire. Il procédera à ses constatations avec le concours au moins d'un témoin et du greffier, et en dressera procès-verbal, dont il délivrera copie authentique à toute partie requérante.

Art. 5. Sur toute demande introductive d'instance qui est présentée au Maire d'une commune rurale, il appellera d'abord les parties en conciliation devant lui, et si elles ne comparaissent pas ou ne peuvent pas se concilier, il fixera le jour de la prochaine audience et donnera aux parties assignation d'y comparaître.

Art. 6. Le Maire d'une commune rurale devra tenir audience au moins une fois par semaine, et les Assesseurs y seront convoqués.

Art. 7. Au jour de l'audience, les causes seront affichées à tour de rôle et dans l'ordre de date des assignations.

Art. 8. Les parties seront obligées de fournir à la première audience tous leurs dires et moyens sous peine d'exclusion; mais si l'une des parties allègue des motifs apparemment plausibles d'impossibilité de produire tous ses moyens, la cause sera remise à huitaine, et les parties en seront informées séance tenante, sans nouvelle citation, ce dont il sera fait mention dans la feuille d'audience.

Art. 9. Si au jour d'audience indiqué par l'acte d'assignation ou convenu pour la remise, une des parties ne comparaît pas, le Maire de la commune rurale accordera contre elle à la partie comparante le jugement par défaut.

Art. 10. Les règles de la procédure commerciale Ottomane concernant les jugements par défaut et l'opposition à ces jugements s'appliquent également aux jugements du Maire de la commune rurale.

Art. 11. Si les deux parties font défaut, la cause sera effacée du rôle et le demandeur ne pourra y revenir que par une nouvelle requête introductive d'instance.

Art. 12. Si au jour de l'audience les parties sont présentes, on procédera d'abord à la lecture des actes, après quoi elles auront la parole. Le Maire d'une commune rurale pourra poser aux parties toutes les questions non tendancieuses qu'il croira convenables pour éclaircir la question, et il aura le devoir d'instruire les parties sur les droits que leur accordent le Statut et le présent Règlement Provisoire.

Art. 13. Après que la cause aura été entendue, le Maire de la commune rurale prononcera la clôture des débats et essaiera de nouveau, avec le concours des Assesseurs, de concilier les parties. Si tout arrangement est repoussé, le Maire, ouïs les Assesseurs, rendra son jugement, et le prononcera séance tenante.

Art. 14. Le Maire d'une commune rurale devra tenir un registre, où seront inscrites toutes les contestations qui lui seront soumises et les décisions y relatives.

Ce registre contiendra le nom des parties, l'objet du litige, la date de l'audience, un résumé des dires et moyens des parties et des dépositions des témoins, s'il y en a. Il renfermera, en outre, s'il y a eu conciliation entre les parties, les termes de cet accord; s'il n'y a pas eu conciliation, l'avis des Assesseurs, et, enfin, la décision prononcée par le Maire de la commune rurale.

Chaque page du registre devra porter la signature ou le sceau du Maire, des Assesseurs, et du greffier.

Art. 15. Dans un délai de huit jours au plus tard, à partir de la date de la publication du jugement, le Maire devra notifier copie à chacune des parties contre reçu portant la date du jour de la notification.

(*b.*)—*Juges de Canton.*

Art. 16. Les Juges de canton sont choisis par le Gouverneur-Général sur des listes dressées par les Conseils Généraux des départements en double du nombre des Juges nécessaires.

Le Gouverneur-Général, sur la proposition de l'Administrateur-Général de la Justice, fait les nominations sans être astreint à nommer les Juges de Canton dans le département où ils ont été proposés.

Art. 17. Le Gouverneur-Général, pour la première année, aura le droit de fixer les circonscriptions judiciaires cantonales, tant qu'elles n'auront pas été déterminées par une loi provinciale.

Art. 18. Le Juge de Canton connaîtra, conformément à l'Article 35 du Chapitre IX, de toutes actions mobilières et personnelles, et en outre:—

1. De toutes actions entre propriétaires et preneurs;

2. Des actions pour dommages faits aux champs, fruits, et récoltes, arbres, haies, fossés, canaux, maisons, et autres propriétés, lorsque les droits de propriété ne sont pas contestés;

3. Des actions relatives aux constructions et aux travaux à faire sur un mur dont la mitoyenneté n'est pas contestée;

4. De toutes actions possessoires;

5. Des actions en dommages-intérêts pour cause d'injures, de diffamation, ou de voies de fait.

Art. 19. Les Juges de Canton tiendront audience autant de fois qu'il sera nécessaire dans la semaine, en tout cas, une fois ou moins tous les huit jours.

Art. 20. La procédure devant le Juge de Canton sera la même que celle par devant le Maire de commune rurale, à l'exception de l'essai de conciliation qui sera fait une seule fois au début de l'audience.

Art. 21. Le délai pour interjeter appel contre les jugements rendu par le Juge de Canton est de quinze jours. Il sera formé requête adressée au Juge de Canton lui-même, qui la transmettra dans les huit jours, avec toutes les minutes, au Tribunal d'Appel.

(*c.*)—*Tribunaux de Département.*

Art. 22. Jusqu'à la promulgation d'un nouveau code civil, l'un des Juges de la section civile de chaque Tribunal de département, ainsi qu'un des Conseillers de la Chambre chargée de connaître des questions immobilières de la section civile de la Cour d'Appel, devra être un membre du clergé Ottoman (naïb), dûment qualifié, et qui aura, outre les fonctions de Juge, l'attribution spéciale d'éclairer le Tribunal sur les dispositions des lois et de la jurisprudence Musulmanes, du Chérîat, toutes les fois que le Tribunal aura à examiner des questions immobilières régies par les lois et la jurisprudence susdites.

L'avis exprimé par le Juge spirituel sera inséré au procès-verbal des délibérations, quelque soit le résultat de ces dernières.

Art. 23. Les Tribunaux de département tiendront audience tous les jours de la semaine, excepté les Vendredis et Dimanches.

Art. 24. Le Président du Tribunal fixera d'avance au moins un jour dans la semaine pour les audiences en matière commerciale et en donnera avis aux Assesseurs.

Art. 25. Lorsqu'il s'agira de questions régies par les lois et la jurisprudence ecclésiastique Musulmane (Cher'i-Cherif), portant surtout sur la validité des titres de propriété exhibés ou concernant des fondations pieuses (vacoufs), le tribunal pourra, par analogie des Articles 39 et 40 du Code de Procédure Commerciale Ottoman, nommer une Commission chargée d'examiner les pièces, d'ouïr les parties, et d'exprimer ensuite son opinion dans un Rapport motivé au Tribunal, qui aura la faculté d'en adopter, modifier, rejeter les conclusions, ou de renvoyer par devant la même Commission pour des éclaircissements plus amples.

Art. 26. Ces Commissions seront toujours composées de cinq personnes, dont trois élues par le Tribunal et deux désignées par les parties en cause. Le naïb ou Juge ecclésiastique, membre du Tribunal, présidera de droit ces Commissions.

(d.)—Cour d'Appel.

Art. 27. Lors de la première organisation de la Cour d'Appel, il ne sera institué que les deux sections—la section civile et la section criminelle.

La constitution des cinq Chambres n'aura lieu qu'au fur et à mesure qu'elle sera nécessitée par le nombre des affaires.

Art. 28. Pour chaque Chambre de la Cour d'Appel et pour chaque Tribunal de département, l'administrateur de la justice dresse une liste de candidats en triple nombre des Magistrats à nommer.

Le Comité Permanent a le droit de biffer le tiers des noms de chacune de ces listes.

Les nominations sont faites par le Gouverneur-Général parmi les noms restants.

(e.)—Procédure en Appel.

Art. 29. Dans les cas d'appel d'un jugement rendu par un Juge de Canton, le Président du Tribunal du département convoque deux ou quatre Juges des deux sections civile et criminelle, et en forme le Tribunal d'Appel.

Les règles établies pour la Cour d'Appel sont appliquées aux Tribunaux de département agissant en qualité de Tribunaux d'Appel.

Art. 30. Les requêtes d'appel sont présentées au Président du Tribunal qui a rendu le jugement contre lequel est appel, et par lui transmises avec les minutes du jugement et autres pièces, s'il y en a, à la Deuxième Instance, dans un délai de quinze jours.

Art. 31. Ces requêtes devront contenir expressément, outre la désignation des noms et qualités des parties, la déclaration de vouloir appeler du jugement dont on se croira grevé et l'élection d'un domicile au siége du Tribunal d'Appel, à peine de nullité.

Art. 32. Le double de cette requête devra être notifié à l'intimé en même temps qu'aura lieu la transmission à l'instance supérieure.

Art. 33. Aussitôt que la Cour d'Appel ou un Tribunal de département recevra la transmission de la requête ou déclaration d'appel ainsi formée, ils devront immédiatement la faire enregistrer par le greffier sur un registre *ad hoc*, avec indication précise de la date de cet enregistrement, qui sera aussi mentionnée au dos de la requête.

Art. 34. Dans les trente jours, à partir de la déclaration, l'appelant devra, sous peine de déchéance, présenter ou faire présenter directement à la Cour d'Appel un mémoire d'appel en double relatant la date et le numéro de sa requête de déclaration d'appel, contenant ses conclusions motivées d'appel, et formulant la demande expresse que l'intimé soit assigné à comparaître à audience fixe pour la discussion de la cause.

Art. 35. Le Tribunal d'Appel notifiera le double de ce mémoire à l'intimé avec assignation de comparaître à audience fixe, par l'entremise du Tribunal de Première Instance dont le jugement est attaqué.

Il fera afficher le double de l'assignation à son parquet.

Au jour indiqué pour l'audience il procédera à l'examen de l'appel, et il prononcera son Arrêt, même par défaut, sans être tenu de s'enquérir si l'intimé a reçu notification de l'assignation. Toute partie intimée aura le droit d'abréger le délai pour l'introduction de l'appel, aussitôt qu'elle sera informée de la déclaration, en faisant diligence et en demandant au Tribunal d'Appel de donner assignation à l'appelant de comparaître à audience fixe.

Art. 36. Sur la demande de l'intimé pour l'introduction de l'appel déclaré par l'appelant, il sera donné assignation à ce dernier de comparaître à audience fixe, et l'assignation sera simplement notifiée au domicile élu dans la déclaration d'appel.

Art. 37. Si aucune des parties ne comparaît à l'audience fixée par le Tribunal d'Appel, la cause sera effacée du rôle, sauf aux parties à l'introduire de nouveau s'il en est encore temps.

Art. 38. Après le délai de trente jours fixé à l'Article 34, si aucune des parties n'a introduit ou poursuivi l'appel à l'audience, la déclaration d'appel sera considérée non avenue et il y aura chose jugée.

Art. 39. La déchéance de l'appel sera constatée par simple attestation du Tribunal d'Appel toutes les fois que pendant trente jours à partir de la date de l'enregistrement de la requête de déclaration, l'appel n'a pas été introduit ou poursuivi à l'audience.

Art. 40. Les greffiers de la Cour d'Appel devront livrer des certificats à toutes parties qui les réclameraient, en les munissant du sceau du Tribunal et en les faisant contresigner par le Président.

Art. 41. Les autres règles de procédure mentionnées au cours du présent Règlement, ainsi que celles du Code de Procédure Commerciale Ottoman, seront observées également par la Cour d'Appel.

(f.)—Règles Spéciales de Compétence.

Art. 42. En matière personnelle, le défendeur sera assigné devant le Tribunal de son domicile, s'il n'a pas de domicile devant le Tribunal de sa résidence et, s'il y a plusieurs défendeurs, devant le Tribunal du domicile de l'un d'eux au choix des demandeurs ;

En matière réelle devant le Tribunal de la situation de l'objet litigieux.

En matière de société, tant qu'elle existe, devant le Tribunal du lieu où elle est établie ;

En matière de succession, sur les demandes qui seraient introduites par des créanciers du défunt avant le partage, devant le Tribunal du lieu où la succession est ouverte.

Art. 43. En matière de garantie le défendeur sera assigné devant le Juge où la demande originaire sera pendante ;

Enfin devant le Tribunal de la situation de l'objet religieux, lorsqu'il s'agira des actions énumérées dans les alinéas 1 à 5 de l'Article 16 du présent Règlement.

(B.)—*Autorités Judiciaires, Criminelles et Correctionnelles.*

(a.)—Maire de Communes Rurales.

Art. 44. Le Maire d'une commune rurale est chargé de la recherche et punition des contraventions indiquées dans l'Article 45 du Chapitre IX.

Art. 45. Lorsqu'il aura connaissance d'une contravention commise dans la commune qui lui est confiée, il procédera immédiatement.

Art. 46. Il fait comparaître devant lui l'inculpé et le plaignant, s'il y en a, et examine l'affaire.

Art. 47. Il est tenu de dresser procès-verbal sur le fait et l'examen de l'affaire, lequel contiendra les noms des personnes qui ont comparu devant lui, la nature du fait, et les temps et lieu où il a été commis.

Art. 48. Le fait étant dûment constaté, l'Arrêt est prononcé immédiatement.

L'Arrêt est inséré au procès-verbal.

Art. 49. Si la constatation du fait ne peut avoir lieu dans la première audience, le Maire fixe un jour pour l'examen ultérieur de l'affaire.

Ce procédé pourra être répété par deux fois.

Art. 50. Si trente jours après l'instruction de l'affaire par le Maire le fait commis n'est pas dûment constaté, ni l'Arrêt prononcé, la personne présumée coupable ne peut plus être poursuivie du fait de la contravention commise.

Art. 51. Cette prescription ne portera pas préjudice aux droits de la partie civile de réclamer des dommages-intérêts.

Art. 52. Tout Maire d'une commune rurale qui aurait prononcé et exécuté contre quiconque une peine plus élevée que le maximum fixé par le Statut est passible d'une amende de 500 à 1,000 piastres, outre les peines auxquelles il pourra être condamné, si le fait est qualifié plus gravement par le Code Pénal.

Il doit être déclaré, en outre, déchu de ses fonctions à la première récidive.

Art. 53. Le Procureur du département, qui est chargé spécialement de la surveillance des Maires des communes rurales en leur qualité de Juges, prononcera les peines mentionnées à l'Article précédent.

(b.)—Juges de Canton.

Art. 54. Dans les cas précisés par le premier alinéa de l'Article —— du Chapitre IX, le Juge de Canton procédera d'office aussitôt qu'il aura reçu connaissance, sans en donner avis, ni au Tribunal ni au Procureur du département.

Art. 55. Il citera les personnes présumées coupables, ainsi que le plaignant et les témoins, moyennant simple mandat de comparaître.

Si le prévenu ne comparaît pas sur le mandat qui lui a été dûment signifié, il est

cité encore une fois avec sommation de comparaître; faute de quoi il serait procédé par contumace.

Art. 56. Si, à la seconde citation, le prévenu fait défaut, le Juge procède par contumace et prononce l'Arrêt, toutes les constatations faites contre l'absent.

Art. 57. Si le prévenu comparaît et que le plaignant fasse défaut, il sera procédé également par défaut.

Art. 58. Le prévenu, ainsi que la partie civile, auront le droit de faire opposition à tout Arrêt rendu en leur absence.

Art. 59. L'opposition sera introduite par devant le même Juge qui a rendu l'Arrêt contre lequel l'opposition est formée, dans un délai de quinze jours après notification de l'Arrêt.

Art. 60. L'opposition étant introduite, le Juge fixe une nouvelle audience et cite les deux parties pour le jour fixé.

Art. 61. A la nouvelle audience, la partie qui fait opposition doit justifier par des motifs plausibles son défaut.

Art. 62. Si les motifs allégués ne sont pas de nature à prouver un empêchement réel de comparaître, l'opposition est rejetée et le premier Arrêt est confirmé.

Art. 63. Si au contraire ces motifs sont suffisants pour justifier le défaut, le Juge déclare le premier Arrêt nul et non avenu et recommence l'instruction de l'affaire.

Art. 64. Lorsque les deux parties sont présentes, il sera procédé à l'examen contradictoire de l'affaire; les témoins déposeront en présence des deux parties, qui auront le droit de leur faire adresser par le Juge des questions qu'elles auront formulées elles-mêmes.

Art. 65. L'action est représentée par le plaignant au préjudice duquel le fait a été commis, et qui se constitue partie civile, ou par le fonctionnaire, ou par l'officier de l'autorité qui a dénoncé le cas au Juge.

Art. 66. S'il devient nécessaire d'inspecter les lieux, le Juge, assisté de son greffier, s'y transportera.

Les parties peuvent assister à l'inspection.

Art. 67. L'Arrêt est prononcé séance tenante.

Copie de l'Arrêt est délivrée aux parties.

Art. 68. Le délai pour interjeter appel est de quinze jours après notification de l'Arrêt.

Ce délai porte déchéance.

Art. 69. Tous les actes d'appel, même ceux qui sont hors de délai, seront soumis par le Juge au Tribunal d'Appel dans le délai de huit jours.

Art. 70. Lorsque l'Arrêt prononcé aura acquis force de loi, le Juge procédera d'office à l'exécution.

Pour ce qui est des dommages-intérêts à payer à la partie civile, c'est elle qui en demandera l'exécution.

Art. 71. Le Juge de Canton tient un registre séparé sur lequel seront portés tous les Arrêts en matière correctionnelle, sommairement avec la date de la publication de l'appel et de l'exécution.

Art. 72. Copie de ce registre est envoyée chaque mois au Procureur du département.

Art. 73. Les condamnés sont écroués dans la prison communale de la résidence du Juge, qui est tenu de la visiter au moins une fois par mois, d'en surveiller l'aménagement, et de contrôler les registres d'entrée et de sortie des prisonniers.

La garde en est confiée à la gendarmerie.

(c.)—*Tribunaux de Département.*

Art. 74. Toutes dénonciations de crimes ou délits commis dans le département seront reçues par le Procureur.

Il recevra également toutes les plaintes, portées en forme de requêtes adressées au Tribunal en matière criminelle ou correctionnelle, sans que le Tribunal les soumette à un examen préalable quelconque.

Art. 75. Tous les fonctionnaires administratifs ou judiciaires du département, nommément les Maires des communes rurales et les officiers de la gendarmerie, sont tenus sous leur responsabilité personnelle de donner immédiatement avis au Procureur de tout crime ou délit dont ils auront acquis connaissance.

Art. 76. Dès qu'une dénonciation quelconque sera parvenue au Procureur, il la transmettra, s'il y a lieu de procéder, au Juge d'Instruction, avec réquisitoire d'amener

ou arrêter le prévenu, de procéder à l'inspection des lieux ou du corps du délit, ou à tout autre acte d'instruction nécessaire.

Art 77. Dans tous les cas graves le Procureur se rend personnellement sur les lieux accompagné d'un greffier. Il peut y déléguer également son substitut.

Il est accompagné, en outre, du Juge d'Instruction, qui contresigne le procès-verbal.

Art. 78. Le Juge d'Instruction est libre d'instruire l'affaire qui lui est déférée d'après la manière qui lui semble la plus efficace et la plus prompte.

Art. 79. Au Rapport qu'il adressera au Procureur après avoir terminé l'instruction seront annexées les minutes des procès-verbaux, dressés pendant le cours de l'instruction et toutes autres pièces y relatives, ainsi que tous les objets et papiers saisis.

Art. 80. Le Procureur veillera à ce que ce Rapport lui soit soumis à temps par le Juge d'Instruction.

Art. 81. Une ordonnance de non-lieu ne peut être délivrée que par le Procureur ou le Tribunal.

Art. 82. Lorsque le Procureur aura trouvé dans le matériel de l'instruction des motifs pour formuler un acte d'accusation, il le soumettra au Tribunal.

Art. 83. Le Tribunal fixe le jour de l'audience.

Art. 84. Seront cités à comparaître à l'audience l'accusé, la partie civile, les témoins, et les experts, s'il y en a.

Art. 85. A l'audience le Procureur donne lecture de son acte d'accusation.

Art. 86. Lecture est donnée également du Rapport du Juge d'Instruction et des pièces y annexées.

Art. 87. Le Juge présidant le Tribunal, fait subir d'abord un interrogatoire à l'accusé et interroge ensuite les témoins.

Les autres Juges ainsi que le Procureur ont le droit de poser des questions à l'accusé et aux témoins.

L'accusé ou son conseil peuvent également questionner les témoins.

Art. 88. Les témoins prêtent serment à l'audience.

Art. 89. A la suite des dépositions des témoins et des dires auxquels elles auront donné lieu, la partie civile et le Procureur développeront les moyens qui appuient l'accusation.

L'accusé et son conseil pourront leur répondre.

La réplique sera permise à la partie civile et au Procureur, mais l'accusé et son conseil auront toujours la parole les derniers.

Art. 90. Le Tribunal prononce la clôture des débats et se retire pour délibérer.

Art. 91. La délibération est secrète et l'Arrêt est rendu à la majorité des voix.

Il est publié séance tenante.

(d.)—*Procédure en Appel.*

Art. 92. La procédure en appel est la même que celle suivie par les Tribunaux de département.

Art 93. Tous les actes d'appel seront soumis d'abord au Procureur-Général qui les examine et les soumet ensuite à la Cour avec ces conclusions.

Art. 94. La Cour fixe l'audience et cite ou fait amener toutes les personnes qui étaient présentes à l'audience du Tribunal de Première Instance.

La Cour, sur la proposition du Ministère Public ou de la défense, peut renvoyer l'affaire au Tribunal de Première Instance pour compléter l'instruction, en fixant un terme à cet effet.

(e.)—*Taxes Judiciaires.*

Art. 95. Les droits et taxes judiciaires seront réglés par un Tarif spécial, qui sera affiché dans chaque Tribunal.

Jusqu'à promulgation du nouveau Tarif, les taxes perçues actuellement continueront à être prélevées.

Les greffiers sont chargés de la perception.

M. de Kallay prend la parole en ces termes :—

"Je sais, Messieurs, que le Chapitre IX est une œuvre incomplète. Nous ne faisons pas des lois, mais un Statut, qui ne peut être que très-succinct; il est, du reste, vrai qu'un seul Chapitre, si long qu'il soit, ne peut suffire au développement du système judiciaire de toute une province.

"Je me suis inspiré dans mon travail de deux principes fondamentaux. J'ai

tâché, autant que possible, de mettre en harmonie avec les usages et les traditions de cette province les principes de justice reconnus dans tous les pays civilisés.

"Pour assurer une justice prompte et rapide, je n'ai prévu que deux instances. Pour qu'elle fût impartiale, je me suis efforcé d'entourer de garanties la nomination des Juges, et, tout en établissant leur inamovibilité, j'ai prévu la nécessité de donner tout d'abord au Gouvernement local une certaine latitude lui permettant d'introduire peu à peu dans la magistrature de ces pays les changements nécessités par le développement des connaissances judiciaires, qui font ici presque entièrement défaut.

"D'après moi, le meilleur système eut été la nomination exclusive des Magistrats par le pouvoir exécutif. J'ai cru cependant nécessaire, pour tenir compte autant que possible des usages traditionnels, de donner à la population une certaine influence dans l'indication des Magistrats à nommer.

"Quant aux circonscriptions judiciaires des cantons, elles seront, pour le moment, fixées provisoirement par le Gouverneur-Général, et, plus tard, par une loi provinciale.

"En outre, j'ai cru utile de réserver les questions de succession entre Musulmans aux Tribunaux religieux Musulmans. Une telle disposition me paraissait équitable, vu le caractère toute spéciale de la législation Musulmane. J'espère que tôt ou tard le Code Civil Ottoman sera réformé de manière que cette clause puisse disparaître sans froisser les sentiments de la population Musulmane."

Abro Effendi: "Vous savez, Messieurs, combien nous désirons hâter les travaux de la Commission. Aujourd'hui, surtout, comme il nous reste peu de temps à siéger, ce désir est encore plus vif. Pour donner une nouvelle preuve de notre esprit de conciliation, nous déclarons vouloir accepter en bloc tout le Chapitre IX."

Le Prince Tzeretelew croit être l'interprète de tous ses collègues en remerciant M. de Kallay pour son travail consciencieux, que la modestie seule oblige le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie à qualifier d'incomplet. "Quant aux Commissaires de Russie," continue le Prince Tzeretelew, "ils constatent, avec une satisfaction toute particulière, que l'auteur du Projet soumis à la Commission s'est laissé guider par le désir de faire une œuvre pratique, adaptée aux besoins du pays et à l'état de choses y existant, sans vouloir appliquer à la Roumélie Orientale un système abstrait. A vrai dire, les principes de l'organisation judiciaire projetée par M. de Kallay, ne sont pas toujours ceux que nous aurions voulu voir appliquer dans la province. Ainsi, nous croyons que l'électivité des Juges, condamnée par le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie, offrirait des avantages réels dans un pays où il y a peu d'hommes préparés à remplir le rôle de Magistrats, et où la confiance populaire peut souvent seule remplacer les garanties de capacité exigées ailleurs.

"L'organisation collégiale des instances qui a existé de tout temps dans la province, et qui y est encore en vigueur actuellement, pourrait être, à notre avis, utilement maintenue. Nous ne nous dissimulons pas, d'autre part, que l'introduction d'un Ministère Public, projetée par M. de Kallay, offrira des difficultés très-sérieuses. Enfin, les dérogations à la règle générale établie par le Projet en faveur des Musulmans nous semblent discutables.

"Toutefois, comme nous désirons contribuer, autant que possible, au prompt achèvement de l'œuvre de la Commission, qui est exigé par les nécessités politiques du moment, nous nous résignons à faire le sacrifice de nos convictions sur les points que je viens d'énumérer, dans l'espoir que la pratique parviendra à amortir l'effet de celles des dispositions contenues dans le Projet de M. de Kallay, qui ne répondent pas tout-à-fait aux conditions exceptionnelles dans lesquelles se trouve ce pays. Par conséquent, si tous nos collègues sont d'accord pour accepter le Projet en question dans sa forme actuelle, nous déclarons que nous aussi nous sommes prêts à le voter en entier."

M. de Coutouly dit que le Commissaire de France n'a pas d'objections de principe contre l'ensemble du Projet de M. de Kallay:—

"Si le Chapitre XI avait été l'objet d'une discussion, le Baron de Ring aurait," continue M. de Coutouly, "présenté des amendements à plusieurs Articles. Mais en présence de l'accord si imprévu, et maintenant si heureusement établi, entre les Puissances les plus intéressées à la question, le Commissaire de France ne saurait songer un seul instant à soulever des difficultés même pour des questions de détail. En conséquence je déclare en son nom, que je vote le Chapitre XI tout entier."

Le Commissaire d'Allemagne constate avec une vive satisfaction l'esprit de conciliation qui anime tous ses collègues et déclare qu'il accepte sans modification aucune le Projet de M. de Kallay.

Les Commissaires de la Grande Bretagne et d'Italie se prononcent également pour l'acceptation du projet de M. de Kallay dans sa forme actuelle.

Le Président constate que le Projet du Chapitre IX est adopté à l'unanimité par la Commission, tel qu'il a été déposé.

Un échange d'idées a lieu au sujet de l'Article 16 du Chapitre IX qui vient d'être voté.

Le Chevalier Vernoni: "Le deuxième alinéa de l'Article 16 a, suivant moi, une très-grande importance. Il y est dit: 'L'exécution immobilière pourra porter sur toute sorte de propriété, aucun immeuble ne pouvant désormais être inaliénable.'

"Ce principe je l'accepte sans hésitation et je désire vivement pour la nouvelle administration qu'il soit appliqué dans son entier. Mais pour que cela puisse se faire, il est absolument urgent qu'une modification radicale soit apportée aux lois qui régissent actuellement ici les propriétés foncières. Il arrive souvent en Turquie que l'action de la justice est paralysée dans l'exécution des sentences, lorsque il s'agit de la vente des certains immeubles régis par le vacouf; les difficultés à surmonter alors sont innombrables, et le plus souvent malgré toute la bonne volonté de l'autorité administrative on n'y parvient pas. La question que je soulève n'est pas nouvelle: d'éminents hommes d'Etat, tels que Ali Pacha, Fuad Pacha, et Ruschdi Pacha, ont étudié les différents systèmes à adopter pour racheter des immeubles régis par le vacouf et rendre libre la propriété immobilière en Turquie. Mais leurs efforts se sont arrêtés devant les difficultés que présente l'exécution de cette réforme salutaire. Il serait donc très-utile que la nouvelle Administration de la province s'occupât sérieusement de cette question, et qu'elle s'en saisit aussitôt qu'elle pourra le faire; elle rendrait un immense service à la province et à tout l'Empire."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff partage l'avis de son Collègue d'Italie:—

"Le développement économique futur du pays," dit-il, "exige que les lois qui régissent actuellement la propriété immobilière soient modifiées. Telle est aussi l'opinion de plusieurs hommes d'Etat éminents de la Turquie, avec lesquels je me suis entretenu. D'autre part la question est extrêmement compliquée, et la Commission ne saurait entreprendre de la résoudre d'une manière satisfaisante.

"Il suffisait à mon avis d'indiquer les principes dont devra s'inspirer à la future législation provinciale sur la propriété, en abandonnant à l'Assemblée le soin de s'occuper des détails."

Les Commissaires de Russie croient que l'organisation de la propriété immobilière est intimement liée avec la prospérité de la province, et voudraient voir la question résolue dans le sens indiqué par leurs collègues d'Italie et de la Grande Bretagne.

Les Commissaires de France et *d'Allemagne* s'expriment dans le même sens.

M. de Kallay dit que la question de la propriété immobilière lui paraît excessivement grave, mais il reconnaît avec le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne que la Commission ne saurait la résoudre dans tous ses détails. Il est d'avis en conséquence de charger une Sous-Commission spéciale de préparer sur cette question un Projet n'indiquant que les principes fondamentaux et réservant la fixation des détails à la future Assemblée provinciale.

La Commission décide qu'il sera formé une Sous-Commission, composée de M. de Braunschweig, de Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, et du Chevalier Vernoni, qui élaborera le Projet du Chapitre XIV sur l'organisation de la propriété.

Les Commissaires de Turquie réservent leur opinion jusqu'à la discussion du Projet qui sera rédigé par la Sous-Commission.

Lord Donoughmore communique à la Commission la lettre suivante du Caissier de l'arrondissement de Tchirpan:

"*Caisse de l'Arrondissement de Tchirpan,*
"A M. le Directeur-Général des Finances, *le 14 Février,* 1879.

"Sur l'ordre verbal de son Excellence le Directeur des Finances, j'ai l'honneur d'informer la Direction Générale que le montant général des sommes conditionnelles s'élève à 24,748 fr. 61 c.

"C'est ces chiffres qui figurent sur les états de nos recettes et dépenses des mois d'Octobre, de Novembre, et de Décembre que j'ai déjà remis à la Direction Générale, lors de mon arrivée à Philippopoli le 6 Février, 1879. Avec la conversion de ces sommes au taux de la livre Turque à 100 piastres, nous obtenons 103,437 piastres 30 c. Nous prions en conséquence la Direction Générale de vouloir bien nous dire si nous pouvons nous en servir pour payer les traitements des fonctionnaires, si les revenus de l'Etat sont insuffisants à couvrir les dépenses de Février.

"Les sommes conditionnelles sont présentement recueillies par le Conseil Administratif, qui à la fin du mois les verse à la caisse. C'est au commencement de Janvier

qu'on a procédé à la perception de ces revenus, de sorte que nous ne savons pas encore le montant qui en a été retiré.

"La Direction des Contributions Indirectes de notre ville vous donne le solde des banderolles restées en dépôt au 1er Janvier, 1879 :—

"186	ocques	250	dragmes	..	5e qualité.
" 27	"	120	"	..	4e "
"213	"	370	"		

"Le Caissier,
(Signé) "TANÉ MANIEFF."

Après un court échange d'idées, la Commission vote la résolution suivante :—

"La Commission autorise le Directeur-Général des Finances à accorder des crédits sur les fonds des entrées conditionnelles pour subvenir aux frais courantes de l'Administration toutes les fois que des demandes spéciales lui sont adressées à cet effet par les Caissiers; mais il est bien entendu que ces autorisations ne peuvent être données par lui que sous sa propre responsabilité et à la condition que les Caisses de la province répondent toujours intégralement pour les sommes ainsi empruntées."

M. de Coutouly annonce à la Commission que M. Schmidt est parti pour une tournée d'inspection qu'il doit faire dans les villes de Haskeui, Yamboli, Slivno, Aïdos, Bourgas, et Achiolou.

Conformément à une décision prise dans la séance précédente, M. le Baron de Ring avait télégraphié au Général Stolipine pour lui annoncer le départ de M. Schmidt. Il a reçu de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général la réponse télégraphique suivante, dont M. de Coutouly donne lecture :—

"J'avais prié M. Schmidt, en vue de la date de Tirnova, de remettre son voyage jusqu'à mon retour; c'est-a-dire pour deux jours. Je l'ai prié en outre de commencer sa tournée dans le Gouvernement de Slivno par cette ville, pour se munir des prescriptions du Gouverneur aux différentes employés. Probablement M. Schmidt désire provoquer des complications, car il fait tout juste le contraire de ce que j'avais demandé. Néanmoins, je viens de donner par télégraphe les ordres nécessaires au Gouverneur de Slivno. Je constate les faits en vue de ce qui pourrait arriver.

(Signé) "Général STOLIPINE."

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance fixée au 12 Mars :

Le Chapitre VII : "Finances."

La séance est levée à 6 heures et demie.

(Signé) KALLAY.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
COUTOULY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 371.

Protocole No. 51.—Séance du 9/21 Mars, 1879 (20 *Rébi-ul-Ewel*, 1296), *à la Maison de la Commission Européenne de Philippopoli.*

Présidence de M. le BARON DE RING.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff,
Le Comte de Donoughmore.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schepelow,
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Le Protocole No. 50, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

M. de Braunschweig dépose sur le bureau le projet du Chapitre X : "Instruction Publique," rédigé par lui.

La Commission décide que ce travail sera imprimé et distribué.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff fait la déclaration suivante :—

"Vous vous souvenez, Messieurs, que le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale a adressé, le 26 Décembre, 1878, à notre Président, une lettre constatant qu'une pétition présentée à la Commission par quelques habitants Turcs de la ville qui lui avait été transmise par moi, contenait des plaintes que les signataires déclaraient n'avoir jamais faites. On me prévient aujourd'hui que le traducteur de ce document, cité devant la cour martiale Russe, a été condamné à la déportation en Sibérie. Or la Roumélie Orientale est, d'après le Traité de Berlin, une province de l'Empire de Turquie, et un sujet Ottoman ne peut être condamné à peine quelconque en vertu de la législation Russe. Je prie en conséquence, MM. les Commissaires de Russie de vouloir bien me dire si l'individu dont il est question a été réellement condamné à la déportation ; s'il en était ainsi, j'aviserais à la décision que je devrais prendre."

Le Colonel Schepelew croit devoir relever tout d'abord une inexactitude dans les informations qui ont été fournies à Sir Henry Drummond Wolff :—

"Ce n'est pas le traducteur, dit, il, mais l'auteur de la fausse pétition, qui a été traduit, à la suite d'une enquête, devant la cour martiale.

"Pour ce qui est de la question posée par le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne, je n'ai aucun renseignement sur la condamnation du coupable, mais je ferai observer à mon collègue que cette question est complétement en dehors de la compétence de la Commission, qui n'a aucun pouvoir de s'ingérer dans les actes de l'Administration Russe. Tant que cette Administration existera dans ce pays, les lois Russes seront appliquées, et les Arrêts des Tribunaux exécutés."

Le Baron de Ring demande à quel titre la loi martiale a pu être appliquée à un délit de droit commun.

Le Prince Tzeretelew répond, à titre de renseignement, que le pays étant occupé militairement les Tribunaux militaires connaissent seules de certains crimes d'une gravité particulière.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff dit que n'ayant obtenu aucun renseignement des Commissaires de Russie, il attendra pour se décider de plus amples informations. Il regardera

l'exil de l'inculpé en Sibérie comme une violation des droits de la Commission, et, s'il se conforme, il avisera aux mesures qu'il devra prendre.

Le Prince Tzeretelew croit, comme le Colonel Schepelew, que la question soulevée par Sir H. Drummond Wolff sort de la compétence de la Commission. Il relève incidemment ce fait que les lois contre lesquelles proteste le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne ont été appliquées depuis l'occupation du pays par les troupes Russes et les sentences des Tribunaux locaux exécutées, sans qu'aucun des Commissaires ait songé à contester leur valeur.

Considérant que la discussion soulevé n'a aucun trait aux travaux de la Commission, le Deuxième Délégué de Russie demande qu'on passe à l'ordre du jour.

L'ordre du jour appelle la continuation du débat sur le Chapitre VII: "Finances."

A la suite d'un échange d'idées entre tous les Commissaires, le "Règlement Provisoire concernant les relations financières de la Province avec l'Empire" est adopté en principe, sauf quelques modifications de rédaction, que l'auteur du Chapitre se réserve d'y introduire.

La Commision décide que le dit Règlement sera reproduit au Protocole de la séance dans laquelle il sera définitivement voté.

Abro Effendi donne lecture de la déclaration suivante:—

"Nous avons appris aujourd'hui seulement que la cour martiale Russe avait condamné un Musulman, sujet de Sa Majesté le Sultan, à la déportation en Sibérie, pour avoir mal rédigé une pétition adressée à la Commission par quelques Turcs habitants le quartier d'Ilmi-Kassim.

"Quant le Gouverneur-Général nous a appris que l'auteur de cette pétition avait été traduit devant une cour martiale, nous avons déclaré que nous ne pouvions pas nous expliquer pourquoi la cour martiale avait été saisie d'une affaire de ce genre, et nous nous sommes demandé si l'on voulait effrayer les pétitionnaires et empêcher dorénavant toute plainte juste, toute réclamation de se produire.

"La nouvelle qui vient de nous être communiquée confirme, si elle est vraie, nos prévisions et nos craintes. Mais comme l'autorité Russe ne saurait avoir le droit d'exiler hors de l'Empire Ottoman un sujet Ottoman habitant une province Ottomane, comme une pareille mesure prise vis-à-vis d'un Rouméliote est non-seulement contraire au Traité de Berlin, qui a placé la Roumélie sous l'autorité directe du Sultan, mais encore aux plus simples notions du droit des gens, nous protestons contre ce fait, sur lequel nous attirons l'attention de la Commission."

Sir H. Drummond Wolff dit qu'il s'associe à la déclaration faite par les Commissaires de Turquie, et se réserve le droit d'en référer à son Gouvernement. Le fait signalé lui semble d'autant plus inqualifiable que le sujet Ottoman a été traduit devant une cour martiale en vertu de dispositions prises avant le Traité de San Stéfano. Mais comme depuis lors il y a eu plus d'un Traité, il ne peut s'expliquer comment des dispositions annulées par des Traités subséquents peuvent continuer à avoir force de loi.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée au 15 Mars:—

1. Le Chapitre X: "Instruction Publique."
2. La continuation du débat sur le Chapitre VII: "Finances."

La séance est levée à 5 heures 45 minutes.

(Signé) RING.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
DONOUGHMORE.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.

Inclosure 3 in No. 371.

Protocole No. 52.—Séance du 3/5 Mars, 1879 (21 Rébi-ul-Awel, 1296), à la Maison de la Commission Européenne à Philippopoli.

Présidence de M. le BARON DE RING.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff,
Le Comte de Donoughmore.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schepelew,
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Le Protocole No. 51, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff attire l'attention de la Commission sur le procès de l'ancien Chef de l'Arrondissement de Tatar-Bazardjik, accusé de concussion, qui se poursuit en ce moment devant le Tribunal militaire de Philippopoli. Le Délégué de la Grande Bretagne propose que la Commission demande, par l'intermédiaire de son Président, au Gouverneur-Général des renseignements à ce sujet; des restitutions devront peut-être s'effectuer aux Caisses publiques.

La Commission décide que cette motion sera mise à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff propose aussi à la Commission de s'adresser, par l'intermédiaire de son Président, au Gouverneur-Général, pour être informée des mesures prises par les autorités en vue de punir les personnes coupables d'actes de violence contre les agents de l'Administration Financière.

La Commission décide que cette motion sera mise à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance.

L'ordre du jour appelle la discussion du Chapitre X: "Instruction Publique."

M. de Braunschweig dit qu'il s'est appliqué autant que possible dans le travail sur lequel la Commission va être appelée à se prononcer à ne rien changer de l'instruction publique, qui a été jusqu'ici en vigueur dans le pays, et qui est consacré par les usages et les traditions. Il s'est borné à poser dans son Projet les bases fondamentales d'une organisation, réservant à l'Assemblée Provinciale le soin d'en fixer les détails. Le Commissaire d'Allemagne, en recommandant son travail à la bienveillance de la Commission, se déclare prêt a accepter telles modifications que ses collègues jugeront bon d'y introduire.

A la suite d'une courte discussion, le Projet de M. de Brauschweig est adopté, après quelques modifications, dans la forme suivante:—

X.—*Instruction Publique.*

Article 1er. Les frais résultant de la création et de l'entretien des écoles primaires et secondaires sont à la charge des communautés religieuses.

L'administration intérieure et spéciale des écoles, y compris la nomination du corps enseignant, appartient à la communauté religieuse, qui en supporte les frais.

Art. 2. Dans le cas où une communauté ne disposerait pas de ressources suffisantes pour créer ou entretenir des écoles primaires, ainsi que des écoles secondaires, là où ces dernières seraient reconnues nécessaires, il pourrait être alloué, par la loi du budget de la province une subvention spéciale à la dite communauté.

Art. 3. Il sera en outre, dans chaque budget annuel, assigné une certaine somme pour servir de subvention aux écoles. La distribution de cette somme sera opérée par un règlement d'administration publique. Elle se fera de telle sorte que les subventions qui reviennent d'après les Articles 2 et 3 aux différentes communautés religieuses répondent approximativement aux proportions dans lesquelles ces communautés contribuent aux charges de la province.

Art. 4. Aucune école (primaire, secondaire, technique, normale, ou autre) à la charge de la province ne peut être établie ou maintenue qu'en vertu d'une loi.

Cette loi réglera l'administration intérieure de l'école, le mode de nomination du corps enseignant, le programme des études, &c.

Les instituteurs enseignant aux écoles de la province seront soumis aux lois réglant la discipline ainsi que les droits et devoirs des autres fonctionnaires.

Art. 5. Si par une loi provinciale la création d'une université est décidée, cette loi devra s'inspirer des principes suivants:—

(*a.*) Le corps enseignant sera divisé en professeurs titulaires, recevant un traitement fixe du Gouvernement, et en agrégés, qui ne toucheront pas de traitement fixe.

(*b.*) Les professeurs titulaires seront, sur la proposition du Directeur de l'Instruction Publique, nommés par le Gouverneur-Général. Le corps enseignant une fois formé, les nominations pour les postes vacants se feront par le Gouverneur-Général sur la présentation des professeurs titulaires.

(*c.*) Pour les nominations des professeurs titulaires le Gouverneur tiendra compte, autant que possible, des chiffres proportionnels des habitants des trois principales nationalités de la province.

(*d.*) Pour devenir agrégé il suffira de justifier des conditions de capacité et de moralité exigées par la loi.

(*e.*) Chaque professeur a le droit de choisir lui-même la langue dans laquelle il veut faire son cours.

Art. 6. Tout particulier a quelque nationalité ou culte qu'il appartienne, a le droit d'établir une école, pourvu qu'il remplisse les conditions de moralité et de capacité prescrites par la loi.

Art. 7. L'instruction primaire est obligatoire.

Les enfants qui ont atteint l'âge de 7 ans révolus sont tenus de fréquenter les écoles primaires.

Cette obligation dure jusqu'à ce qu'ils aient atteint l'âge de 13 ans.

Art. 8. L'instruction aux écoles publiques pourra être remplacée par l'enseignement privé, si le père de l'enfant ou son tuteur prouve que l'instituteur ou l'institutrice choisi par lui remplit les conditions de capacité et de moralité demandées par la loi.

Art. 9. Aucun enfant ne pourra être admis à l'enseignement d'une religion autre que la sienne.

Art. 10. La haute surveillance de l'instruction publique et privée appartient au Directeur de l'Instruction Publique, lequel l'exercera conformément aux lois et aux règlements par des Inspecteurs nommés pour chaque canton en nombre suffisant.

Ces Inspecteurs seront pris parmi les Notables de la communauté religieuse dont ils auront à surveiller les écoles.

Les Inspecteurs des écoles ne seront pas rétribués. Il pourra cependant leur être alloué une indemnité à titre de frais de tournées.

Les Inspecteurs veilleront à ce que les écoles primaires soit assidûment fréquentées. Ils surveilleront le corps enseignant et remettront au Directeur de l'Instruction Publique des notes périodiques sur la moralité et le zèle des instituteurs ainsi que sur l'observation exacte par ces derniers des lois et règlements concernant le programme des études, &c.

Une loi provinciale déterminera leur nombre et définira en détail leurs fonctions.

Art. 11. Dans le cas ou un instituteur enseignant à une école appartenant à une communauté religieuse négligerait grossièrement ses devoirs professionnels ou se rendrait par son inconduite indigne d'exercer ses fonctions, l'Inspecteur devrait le dénoncer au Directeur de l'Instruction Publique, qui le ferait traduire devant la section correctionnelle du Tribunal du département; celle-ci prononcerait la destitution de l'inculpé après enquête contradictoire.

Art. 12. Une loi provinciale arrêtera un programme normal pour l'instruction primaire et secondaire.

Art. 13. Aucune communauté religieuse ne pourra être tenue d'introduire dans ses écoles une autre langue que la sienne propre.

Art. 14. Par contre il sera loisible à toute communauté de faire enseigner dans ses écoles telles langues vivantes ou mortes qu'elle jugera utiles, et même d'y faire faire des cours dans ces langues.

Art. 15. Les dispositions des deux Articles précédents s'appliquent également aux écoles fondées et dirigées par des particuliers, ainsi qu'il est dit à l'Article 6.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée au 18 Mars:

1. La continuation du débat sur le Chapitre VII: "Finances;"
2. La motion de Sir Henry Drummond Wolff au sujet du procès de l'ancien Chef de l'Arrondissement de Tatar-Bazardjik;
3. La motion de Sir Henry Drummond Wolff tendant à inviter le Président de la Commission à demander au Gouverneur-Général quelles mesures ont été prises par les autorités locales en vue de punir les personnes coupables d'actes de violence contre les agents de l'Administration Financière.

La séance est levée à 4 heures et demie.

(Signé) RING.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
DONOUGHMORE.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.

No. 372.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 16.)

(No. 156.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 4, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a Report from Lord Donoughmore respecting the attitude and language adopted by General Stolipine and the Panslavist party with regard to the rumours of a mixed occupation.

I also inclose a copy of the "Maritza," with an article devoted to an attack on the proposals of the Commission.

Several Bulgarians, including the Exarch, have expressed themselves to me in favour of our scheme, and I have no doubt that the article in question has been suggested by General Stolipine, with the view of rendering still more difficult the task of tranquillising the province and carrying out the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 372.

Lord Donoughmore to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Confidential.)
Dear Sir H. Wolff, *Philippopolis, March* 31, 1879.

I MET Colonel Schepelew after breakfast this morning at the French Commissioners. He stated that he intended leaving for Constantinople on Wednesday morning, and that he should proceed thence by the earliest opportunity to St. Petersburgh, whither he had been summoned by the Emperor. On M. de Coutouly asking Colonel Schepelew whether this summons was unexpected, he replied that it was not entirely

so, as he had himself thrown out the hint that it might be advantageous if the opportunity was given him of communicating personally with His Majesty.

With regard to my last paragraph of my telegram of to-day's date, I am informed by the German Commissioner that language similar to that used to M. Crespin was held by M. Nekludoff to M. Schmidt, *i.e.*, that he (M. Nekludoff) had seen and read a despatch to General Stolipine announcing that a mixed occupation was decided upon.

When M. de Braunschweig paid his farewell visit to the General to-day, the latter stated, in presence of the Exarch, that matters were very critical. He had thought that the Bulgarian population would be content to accept the Treaty of Berlin if concessions were made in the matter of the Balkan garrisons and the future Governor-General. Now, however, he feared that, notwithstanding all he and his subordinates had done to calm the popular feelings, the people were beyond his and their control, and would be content with nothing but a union with Bulgaria. The General added: "Et puis je vous assure, presque officiellement, que, en tout cas, il y aura des désordres ici." M. de Braunschweig appeared anxious that this conversation should be communicated to you, as he considered General Stolipine's words to be an order to the Exarch to use his influence in a certain direction, expressed in the form of a doubt as to the future, he stated his conviction that the Panslavist party, in the event of a mixed occupation being arranged, would use all their powers to make complications.

I saw Colonel Schepelew again this evening. He complained of the short time he would be able to spend in St. Petersburgh, as, though he was summoned thither, he was also told it would be necessary for him to be back here before the period fixed for the Russian evacuation. He hinted his opinion that the Commission would be back at Philippopolis by that time, and that its existence would be considerably prolonged.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DONOUGHMORE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 372.

Extract from the "Maritza."

Plovdiv, le 19 *Mars* (v. s.), 1879.

LA Commission Européenne a terminé ses travaux parmi nous, et nous connaissons maintenant son œuvre. Ceux qui ont intérêt à cacher la réalité, ceux qui se laissent tromper par de fausses apparences pourront continuer à accuser les Bulgares d'être systématiquement hostiles aux institutions si libérales qu'elles soient, dont l'Europe veut les doter; mais tous les hommes qui jugent sans parti pris trouveront aujourd'hui que le Projet de Statut Organique pour la Roumélie Orientale est connu, les méfiances de la population pleinement justifiées. Il est juste d'ajouter cependant que ces méfiances provenaient uniquement de ce que la Commission avait à travailler sur la base d'un Traité qu'aujourd'hui les organes Turcophiles les plus autorisés, comme le "Journal des Débats" par exemple, n'hésitent plus à appeler "impraticable et fragile." C'est pour cela que la population, sans mettre en doute les bonnes intentions de la Commission, n'a jamais pu ajouter foi aux promesses que Messieurs les Commissaires lui prodiguaient. Le Projet de Statut Organique nous dit comment la Commission a interprété le Traité de Berlin, comment elle a tenu ses propres promesses: d'un bout à l'autre le Statut Organique trahit la préoccupation constante de ses auteurs de créer aux minorités infimes une situation privilégiée aux depens de l'écrasante majorité. A leur arrivée parmi nous, les Représentants des Grandes Puissances ont été sans doute étonnés de trouver un tout autre pays que celui que leur indiquaient les statistiques fantaisistes ayant servi de base aux délibérations du Congrès de Berlin. Sans donner suite à la pétition des Bulgares de faire dresser une statistique exacte de la population, Messieurs les Commissaires en ont bientôt appris assez pour savoir que la Roumélie Orientale est un pays pour le moins aussi Bulgare que la Principauté trans-Balkane. Mais au lieu de tenir compte de ce fait, qui dérangeait singulièrement les calculs de certains diplomates, la Commission n'y a vu qu'une raison de plus pour restreindre les droits de la majorité au profit des minorités; d'un pays éminemment Bulgare elle a voulu faire une province incolore; et dans la poursuite de ce but elle en est arrivée à créer un organisme d'un autre âge, un organisme où d'infimes minorités auraient en quelque sorte la situation de la noblesse, tandis que la race prédominante ne serait que le Tiers-Etat avec des droits bien limités.

Cette tendance ne pouvait être plus ouvertement affichée qu'elle ne l'est par la composition de l'Assemblée Provinciale. Mais la Commission ne se contentant pas

de cette combinaison hybride pour fausser l'expression de la volonté populaire, a encore rendu impossible l'exercice des attributions les plus importantes de l'Assemblée ainsi qui celui du droit de demander la mise en accusation du Gouverneur-Général et du droit de modifier le Statut Organique. Elle a aussi rendu à peu près illusoire le contrôle à exercer sur le Gouverneur-Général en l'absence de l'Assemblée, puisque le Statut Organique institue à cet effet un Comité de Permanence de neuf membres à élire au scrutin de cinq noms seulement, c'est-à-dire que la minorité parviendra à avoir presque toujours la majorité dans le Comité de Permanence. Tout cela ne lui paraissant pas suffisant pour assurer la situation privilégiée des minorités, la Commission a encore eu recours à la division administrative du territoire. Des villages, distants de 4 ou 5 lieues de leur chef-lieu d'arrondissement actuel, sont intégrés à des arrondissements dont le chef-lieu se trouve à 15 lieues et plus, dans le but évident de former des circonscriptions avec des minorités assez fortes pour pouvoir paralyser l'exercice des droits de la majorité.

Il n'y a pas jusqu'aux questions touchant l'instruction publique et la justice où la Commission Européenne n'ait trahi cette tendance. Ainsi il y aurait dans chaque Tribunal Civil sur trois membres toujours un Kadi, sous prétexte que les Juges Musulmans connaissent le mieux les lois réglant la succession et la fortune immobilière chez nous; et l'Université, dont le Statut Organique autorise la création, aurait des professeurs pris dans les différentes communautés et nommés par le Gouverneur, avec la faculté de faire le cours dans une des trois langues à leur choix. C'est accorder d'une main ce que l'on retire de l'autre, car on ne réussira jamais à fonder une Université où les conférences se feraient simultanément en Turc, en Grec, et en Bulgare, sans créer en même temps trois chaires pour chaque cours.

Voilà, sans entrer de nouveau dans le plus amples détails sur le Statut Organique, assez de points qui justifient pleinement toutes les appréhensions et tous les doutes que la population a exprimés par ses mémoires et pétitions adressés à Messieurs les Commissaires. Après s'être formée une idée juste du Statut Organique, ceux qui nous accusaient d'un parti pris d'hostilité contre l'œuvre de la Commission seraient tous les premiers embarrassés à nous indiquer un pays, où une Commission étrangère eut pu aussi tranquillement que chez nous préparer un régime, lequel est la négation la plus catégorique des droits d'une province déclaré autonome par un Aréopage Européen.

Il est à espérer que les Ambassadeurs des Grandes Puissances à Constantinople, tenant compte des appréhensions des populations de la Roumélie Orientale et voyant les défectuosités de l'œuvre de la Commission, ne manqueront pas d'y apporter dans la délibération finale au moins toutes les modifications compatibles avec la lettre du Traité de Berlin.

Quant aux principaux inconvénients du Traité lui-même, à savoir, le droit pour le Sultan de tenir garnison dans les Balkans, le pouvoir discrétionnaire du Gouverneur-Général d'appeler les troupes Ottomanes dans la province, le mode de nomination des officiers de la milice ou de la gendarmerie, enfin le choix du Gouverneur-Général, nous nous contenterons de constater encore une fois, que tant que ces sujets d'épouvante ne seront pas écartés, il serait de la plus haute témérité de croire à la possibilité d'apaiser les esprits et de créer un état de choses présentant quelques garanties pour le maintien de la paix.

No. 373.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 16.)

(No. 157.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 4, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of Chapters IX and X, as adopted by the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 373.

CHAPITRE IX.—DES AUTORITÉS JUDICIAIRES.

(Adopté en Première Lecture.)

I.—*Dispositions Générales.*

ARTICLE 1er. La justice est rendue en matière civile et en matière criminelle par les autorités suivantes :—

1. Les Maires des communes rurales ;
2. Les Juges de canton ;
3. Les Tribunaux de département ;
4. La Cour d'Appel.

Art. 2. Il n'y a que deux degrés de juridiction.

Art. 3. La juridiction en Première Instance est exercée :

1. Par les six Tribunaux de département, qui siégent aux chefs-lieux des six départements de la Roumélie Orientale. Ces Tribunaux de département se composent de deux sections ; savoir—la section civile et la section criminelle ;

2. Par les Juges de Canton, assistés de leurs Assesseurs ;

3. Par les Maires des communes rurales, assistés de leurs Assesseurs, dans toutes les communes rurales où il n'y a pas de Juge de Canton.

Art. 4. La juridiction en appel est dévolue aux Tribunaux de département et à la Cour d'Appel siégeant à Philippopoli.

Art. 5. Dans la composition des autorités judiciaires il y a des Magistrats proprement dits et des Assesseurs ou Juges temporaires :

Art. 6. Sont Magistrats proprement dits ou Juges perpétuels :

1. Les Juges de Canton ;
2. Les Présidents et les Membres des Tribunaux de département ;
3. Les Présidents et Conseillers de la Cour d'Appel.

Art. 7. Sont Assesseurs ou Juges temporaires :

1. Les Maires des communes rurales ayant des fonctions judiciaires ;
2. Les Assesseurs judiciaires du Maire de commune rurale ;
3. Les Assesseurs de Juges de Canton ;
4. Les Assesseurs des Tribunaux civils de département dans les questions commerciales.

Art. 8. Les Juges perpétuels sont nommés par le Gouverneur-Général de la province et ils sont inamovibles, sauf le cas de destitution par jugement.

Les Juges temporaires sont nommés par la population et seront indéfiniment rééligibles.

Les Juges perpétuels ont un traitement régulier.

Les Juges temporaires reçoivent pour les audiences auxquelles ils ont pris part une indemnité fixée par les Conseils Généraux.

Les dispositions de détail sont fixées par le Règlement Provisoire annexé au présent chapitre.

Art. 9. Sont incapables d'être élus Juges temporaires :

1. Ceux qui ne savent ni lire ni écrire ;
2. Les domestiques et serviteurs à gages ;
3. Ceux à qui l'exercice des droits civils, politiques, ou de famille a été interdit conformément à la loi pénale ;
4. Les faillis non réhabilités ;
5. Ceux qui sont en état d'accusation ou de contumace ;
6. Ceux qui sont condamnés à des peines afflictives ou infamantes ou pour quelque délit commis par avidité de gain, ou pour tout autre délit emportant un emprisonnement d'une année.

Sont également exclus de l'élection les fonctionnaires publics et les militaires en activité de service.

Art. 10. Les Tribunaux ecclésiastiques, c'est-à-dire les Tribunaux du Chériat pour les Musulmans, et les autorités ecclésiastiques des autres cultes ayant fonctions judiciaires ne seront désormais compétents qu'en matière de questions relatives à l'état civil des personnes et de tutelle.

Toutes questions immobilières, d'héritage ou autres qui étaient jusqu'ici de leur compétence seront à l'avenir du ressort des Tribunaux civils.

Art. 11. Auprès de chaque Tribunal statuant en matière criminelle il y a un fonctionnaire chargé du Ministère Public.

Art. 12. Toute personne comparaissant devant le Tribunal, soit civil, soit criminel, a le droit de confier sa défense à un Conseil chargé de porter la parole pour elle, à moins qu'il ne s'agisse de répondre à un interrogatoire.

La partie étant présente, ce Conseil n'aura pas besoin d'exhiber de pouvoirs.

Art. 13. Les audiences sont publiques et les jugements et arrêts rendus en audience publique, sauf le cas où, pour des motifs de moralité, le huis clos serait nécessaire.

Dans tous les cas où l'honneur et le crédit du plaignant l'exigeraient absolument, les Tribunaux peuvent ordonner la publication de l'extrait du jugement dans la principale feuille de la province aux frais de la partie condamnée.

Art. 14. Le témoignage, dans le cas où il est admis par la loi, sera reçu de toute personne sans distinction de religion, sous serment prêté séance tenante suivant les formes en usage et avant la déposition.

Art. 15. Les sentences pénales définitives seront exécutées par l'autorité administrative.

Aucun criminel condamné à mort ne pourra être exécuté sans que sa condamnation ne soit sanctionnée par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Art. 16. L'exécution des jugements civils est dévolue aux Tribunaux. Elle est progressivement mobilière, immobilière et personnelle, sans distinction de religion et de position sociale.

L'exécution immobilière pourra porter sur toute espèce de propriété, aucun immeuble ne pouvant désormais être inaliénable.

Art. 17. L'exécution de tout jugement est suspendue s'il y a appel, et l'appelant n'est pas tenu de fournir de sécurités, sauf le cas où l'exécution provisoire est permise par la loi ou prononcée par le Tribunal avec ou sans caution, et sans préjudices des mesures conservatoires que les parties demanderont ou que le Tribunal estimera nécessaires en matière civile aussi bien qu'en matière pénale.

II.—*Dispositions Spéciales.*

(A.)—*Autorités Judiciaires Civiles.*

Art. 18. Connaissent de matière civile :—

1. Les Maires des communes rurales, quand il s'agit d'actions mobilières dont l'objet ne dépasse pas 500 piastres.

2. Les Juges de Canton quand il s'agit de questions mobilières jusqu'à concurrence de 10,000 piastres, sauf les questions commerciales.

3. La section civile des Tribunaux de département quand il s'agit de questions mobilières, immobilières, et commerciales, sauf celles réservées aux Juges de Canton et aux Tribunaux ecclésiastiques.

(*a.*)—*Maires de Communes Rurales.*

Art. 19. Dans le cas prévu par l'Article 3, alinéa 3, le Maire d'une commune rurale a fonctions de Juge.

Il rend la justice gratuitement.

Art. 20. Le Maire d'une commune rurale n'exerce ces fonctions que pour les différends qui surgissent entre les membres de la communauté dont il est le chef administratif.

Ces fonctions sont dévolues dans les communes indiquées dans l'Article 80 du Chapitre VI, à chacun des Maires de section de commune.

Art. 21. Le Maire d'une commune rurale est assisté dans ces fonctions de Juge de deux Assesseurs qui ont voix consultative seulement ; mais leurs avis, que le Maire n'est pas obligé de suivre, devra être consigné dans la feuille d'audience qui contiendra la décision de ce dernier.

Art. 22. Les Conseils Municipaux des communes procéderont chaque année, à la majorité des voix, à l'élection des Assesseurs au nombre de quatre, qui seront de service, deux par deux, pendant six mois.

Art. 23. En cas de décès ou de révocation d'un Assesseur, les dits Conseils procéderont immédiatement à la nomination d'un remplaçant.

Art. 24. En cas d'empêchement légitime d'un Assesseur, il sera remplacé par un de ses collègues qui n'est pas de service dans le semestre.

Art. 25. Toutes plaintes quelconques, dirigées par le Maire d'une commune rurale ou toute autre personne contre les Assesseurs, relativement à l'exercice de leurs

fonctions, et, sauf le cas où elles pourraient donner lieu à une poursuite criminelle, seront portées devant le Conseil Municipal de la Commune, qui en connaîtra, à la majorité des voix, et pourra prononcer une amende ou même la révocation de l'Assesseur.

Art. 26. Pour toutes actions autres que celles désignées par la section 1re de l'Article 18, le Maire d'une commune rurale se déclare incompétent et renvoie les parties à se pourvoir par devant l'autorité compétente.

Art. 27. Les jugements rendus par les Maires des communes rurales ne sont pas susceptibles d'appel.

(b.)—Juges de Canton.

Art. 28. Chaque canton est divisé en plusieurs circonscriptions judiciaires dont le nombre est déterminé par une loi provinciale.

Art. 29. Chacune de ces circonscriptions judiciaires est confiée à un Juge Cantonal.

Art. 30. Le Juge, qui doit être un Magistrat, est assisté par deux Assesseurs ayant voix consultative.

Art. 31. Les Assesseurs sont élus par les Conseils Municipaux de toutes les communes qui se trouvent situées dans la même circonscription judiciaire.

Art. 32. Le nombre de ces Assesseurs pour chaque circonscription judiciaire est de quatre avec deux suppléants, pour les remplacer en cas d'absence ou d'empêchement.

Art. 33. Toutes les règles établies pour les Assesseurs du Maire d'une commune rurale, sont applicables aux Assesseurs du Juge de Canton, avec la différence que les plaintes contre eux seront portées par devant la Commission Départementale.

Dans tous les autres cas graves, le Juge pourra suspendre un Assesseur de ses fonctions et le faire provisoirement remplacer par un suppléant, jusqu'à la décision de la Commission Départementale.

Art. 34. Il y a auprès de chaque Juge de Canton un greffier Assesseur assermenté, chargé du dépôt des pièces sous sa responsabilité personnelle et de la rédaction des minutes.

Il est secondé dans ses fonctions par un personnel suffisant de commis-greffiers et d'huissiers. Le service de ces derniers pourra être rempli par des gendarmes.

Art. 35. Le Juge de Canton connaît de toutes actions qui sont de sa compétence à charge d'appel; l'appel est porté devant le Tribunal du département dans lequel se trouve la circonscription judiciaire du Juge de Canton.

(c.)—Tribunaux de Département.

Art. 36. La section civile de chaque Tribunal de département est composée de trois membres perpétuels, dont un Président et deux Juges.

Art. 37. Il y a au Tribunal de département quatre Assesseurs et deux Assesseurs suppléants.

Ces Assesseurs, en nombre de deux, siégent seulement lorsque le Tribunal est saisi de questions commerciales.

Ils ont voix délibérative.

Art. 38. Les Assesseurs sont choisis au commencement de chaque année, par le Conseil-Général, parmi les négociants domiciliés au siége du Tribunal.

Les règles concernant les Assesseurs du Juge Cantonal, qui sont contenues à l'Article 34, leur sont également applicables.

Art. 39. La section civile des Tribunaux de département connaît de toutes actions à charge d'appel.

Art. 40. La procédure à suivre en matière civile par les Tribunaux de département est celle du Code de Procédure Commerciale Ottoman, tant qu'il n'y est pas dérogé par les règles fixées dans le présent Statut.

Art. 41. Il y a dans chaque Tribunal de département un nombre suffisant de greffiers et huissiers relevant de l'autorité du Président.

Art. 42. Pour tout ce qui concerne le service intérieur de la section civile des Tribunaux de département, on appliquera les règles tracées par le Titre IV de l'Appendice au Code de Commerce Ottoman, en tant qu'il n'y est pas dérogé par les dispositions du présent Statut.

Art. 43. L'appel des jugements rendus par la section civile des Tribunaux de département est porté devant la Cour d'Appel.

(B.)—Autorités Judiciaires, Criminelles, et Correctionnelles.

Art. 44. Connaissent de matière criminelle et correctionnelle :—

1. Les Maires des communes rurales.
2. Les Juges de Canton.
3. Les Tribunaux de département.
4. La Cour d'Appel.

(a.)—Maires de Communes Rurales.

Art. 45. Les Maires de commune rurale connaissent des contraventions de police, commises dans leur circonscription administrative, jusqu'à concurrence d'une condamnation de vingt-quatre heures ou d'une amende de 100 piastres.

Art. 46. Le Maire d'une commune rurale est chargé de la recherche et de la punition des contraventions indiquées dans l'Article précédent.

Art. 47. Lorsqu'il aura connaissance d'une contravention commise dans la commune qui lui est confiée il procédera immédiatement.

Art. 48. Les Arrêts du Maire de la commune rurale ne sont pas susceptibles d'appel.

(b.)—Juges de Canton.

Art. 49. Les fonctions du Juge de Canton en matière criminelle sont doubles :—

1. Il est Juge connaissant et rendant arrêt, quand il s'agit de contraventions et de délits, dans tous les cas où la condamnation n'excède pas un mois de prison ou 1,000 piastres d'amende.

2. Il remplit les fonctions de Juge d'Instruction dans tous les cas où il s'agit de crimes ou délits comportant une condamnation excédant le maximum sus-indiqué.

Art. 50. Dans les cas précisés, par le premier alinéa de l'Article précédent, qui viendront à sa connaissance, il procédera d'office à l'examen de l'affaire sans en donner avis au parquet du Tribunal du département.

Art. 51. Dans les cas indiqués dans le premier alinéa du même Article, le prévenu ne peut être ni contraint par corps à comparaître, ni emprisonné.

Art. 52. Dans les cas susmentionnés le Juge connaît également des dommages-intérêts de la partie civile, jusqu'à concurrence du montant auquel est limité sa compétence en matière civile.

Art. 53. Tous les Arrêts du Juge de Canton en matière criminelle sont susceptibles d'appel.

L'appel est porté devant le Tribunal du département où se trouve la circonscription du Juge.

(c.)—Tribunaux de Département.

Art. 54. La section criminelle de chaque Tribunal de département est composée :—

1. Des trois Juges perpétuels, l'un d'eux remplissant les fonctions de Président.
2. Du Procureur chargé du Ministère Public; un ou plusieurs substituts peuvent être adjoints au Procureur si le besoin s'en fait sentir.
3. D'un ou plusieurs Juges d'Instruction.

Art. 55. Il y a dans la section criminelle de chaque Tribunal de département un nombre suffisant de greffiers assermentés et de commis-greffiers.

Art. 56. Les fonctions de Juge d'Instruction sont remplies par les Juges de Canton et, en cas d'insuffisance de ces derniers, par les Juges d'Instruction attachés au Tribunal de département.

Art. 57. Sauf le cas de flagrant délit, le Juge d'Instruction ne pourra procéder contre qui que ce soit sans autorisation préalable du Procureur.

Art. 58. En cas de flagrant délit, le Juge d'Instruction, et le Juge de Canton ayant fonctions de Juge d'Instruction, procèdent d'office à l'arrestation du criminel, à l'inspection des lieux et à tout autre acte judiciaire, sauf à en donner connaissance au Procureur dans les vingt-quatre heures.

Art. 59. Peuvent procéder également les Maires des communes rurales et les officiers et sous-officiers de la gendarmerie à l'arrestation de tout criminel en flagrant délit, sauf à en donner avis au Procureur du département, soit directement, soit par l'entremise de leurs préposés, dans les vingt-quatre heures.

Art. 60. Sauf les cas prévus dans les précédents Articles, nul ne pourra être arrêté ou privé de sa liberté personnelle que sur un mandat d'arrêt délivré par le Procureur du département ou par un Juge d'Instruction procédant en son nom.

Art. 61. Le Juge d'Instruction peut lancer des mandats d'amener ou d'arrêter contre toute personne dont la comparution ou l'arrestation devient nécessaire pendant le cours de l'instruction qui leur a été ordonnée par le réquisitoire du Procureur.

Art. 62. L'instruction achevée, le Juge d'Instruction adresse son rapport au Procureur.

Art. 63. Le Procureur dresse l'acte d'accusation d'après le rapport du Juge d'Instruction.

Art. 64. Le Tribunal prononce son Arrêt, ouïs l'accusé, la partie civile, et le Ministère Public.

Art. 65. Tout Arrêt du Tribunal est susceptible d'appel qui est porté devant la Cour d'Appel.

Art. 66. Ont droit de faire appel le condamné, la partie civile, et le Ministère Public.

(C.)—*Cour d'Appel.*

Art. 67. La Cour d'Appel est divisée en deux sections, à savoir : la section civile et la section criminelle.

Art. 68. La première section est subdivisée en trois Chambres :

1. La Chambre des causes en matière immobilière ;
2. La Chambre des causes en matière mobilière ;
3. La Chambre des causes en matière commerciale.

Art. 69. La seconde section est subdivisée en deux Chambres :

1. La Chambre criminelle ;
2. La Chambre correctionnelle.

Art. 70. Le Président de la Première Chambre de chaque section a le titre de Premier Président et les autres celui de Deuxième Président.

Art. 71. Le Premier Président a la gestion et la direction interne de sa section.

Art. 72. Chaque Chambre est composée du Président, de quatre Juges perpétuels qui ont le titre de Conseillers, et d'un personnel suffisant de greffiers et d'huissiers.

Art. 73. Le service interne de chaque Chambre est réglé d'après les dispositions du Titre IV de l'Appendice au Code de Commerce Ottoman.

Art. 74. Tous les fonctionnaires de la Cour d'Appel, commis-greffiers compris, sont assermentés.

Art. 75. On entend par sections réunies la réunion des cinq Présidents de la Cour et d'un Conseiller de la Première Chambre de chaque section.

Les sections réunies sont convoquées et présidées par le Président de la Première Chambre de la première section.

Art. 76. La réunion des sections aura lieu pour statuer sur les conflits de compétence qui pourraient surgir entre les différentes Chambres ou les Tribunaux inférieurs, ainsi que se prononcer sur les modifications ou réformes que pourrait nécessiter le service interne de la Cour et des Tribunaux.

Art. 77. Les sections réunies connaîtront également des plaintes contre tous Magistrats de la province, en tant que ces plaintes ne constitueront pas des délits ou des crimes du ressort de la justice répressive.

Art. 78. La réunion des sections a lieu quand elle est réclamée par le Président d'une des Chambres de la Cour ou par le Ministère Public moyennant réquisitoire au Président de la première section.

(*d.*)—*Ministère Public.*

Art. 79. Les fonctions du Ministère Public sont remplies à la Cour d'Appel par un Procureur-Général.

Art. 80. Il y a deux substituts pour le service des audiences aux Chambres de la Cour et deux substituts pour le service de son parquet.

Art. 81. Les substituts affectés au service des Chambres auront le titre d'Avocats-Généraux.

Art. 82. Le Ministère Public exerce l'action de la justice criminelle dans toute l'étendue de la province ; il veille au maintien de l'ordre dans tous les Tribunaux ; il a la surveillance de tous les officiers de la police judiciaire.

Art. 83. En matière civile, le Ministère Public agit d'office toutes les fois qu'il s'agit de l'intérêt de la loi, surveille l'exécution des lois, des arrêts, des jugements et poursuit cette exécution dans les dispositions qui intéressent l'ordre public.

Art. 84. Les substituts du Procureur-Général exercent identiquement les mêmes fonctions sous sa surveillance et sa direction.

Art. 85. Les Juges d'Appel ne seront nullement astreints à suivre dans leurs décisions l'avis émis par le Ministère Public.

Ils feront droit à ses conclusions ou aux conclusions contraires de toute autre partie selon leur propre conviction.

(A.)—*Règlement Provisoire sur les Autorités Judiciaires.*

I.—*Dispositions Générales.*

Article Ier. Par dérogation provisoire au principe d'inamovibilité des Juges, tous les Magistrats qui n'ont pas de connaissances spéciales ne seront nommés que pour un terme de quatre ans ; passé ce terme, ils pourront être rendus inamovibles par un Décret du Gouverneur-Général, rendu sur l'avis conforme du Comité Permanent et du Conseil Privé.

Art. 2. Les questions de successions entre Musulmans sont réservées aux Tribunaux ecclésiastiques Musulmans.

Art. 3. Les règles concernant la procédure actuellement en vigueur seront maintenues en tant qu'il n'y est pas dérogé par le Statut et le présent Règlement Provisoire.

II.—*Dispositions Spéciales.*

(A.)—*Autorités Judiciaires Civiles.*

(*a.*)—*Maires de Communes rurales.*

Art. 4. Le Maire d'une commune rurale doit toujours se prêter aux constatations judiciaires pour lesquelles il est requis, même lorsqu'il s'agit d'une affaire qui n'est pas de sa compétence judiciaire. Il procédera à ses constatations avec le concours au moins d'un témoin et du greffier, et en dressera procès-verbal, dont il délivrera copie authentique à toute partie requérante.

Art. 5. Sur toute demande introductive d'instance qui est présentée au Maire d'une commune rurale, il appellera d'abord les parties en conciliation devant lui, et si elles ne comparaissent pas ou ne peuvent pas se concilier, il fixera le jour de la prochaine audience, et donnera aux parties assignation d'y comparaître.

Art. 6. Le Maire d'une commune rurale devra tenir audience au moins une fois par semaine, et les Assesseurs y seront convoqués.

Art. 7. Au jour de l'audience, les causes seront affichées à tour de rôle et dans l'ordre de date des assignations.

Art. 8. Les parties seront obligées de fournir à la première audience tous leurs dires et moyens sous peine d'exclusion ; mais si l'une des parties allègue des motifs apparemment plausibles d'impossibilité de produire tous ses moyens, la cause sera remise à huitaine, et les parties en seront informées séance tenante, sans nouvelle citation, ce dont il sera fait mention dans la feuille d'audience.

Art. 9. Si au jour d'audience indiqué par l'acte d'assignation ou convenu pour la remise, une des parties ne comparaît pas, le Maire de la commune rurale accordera contre elle à la partie comparante le jugement par défaut.

Art. 10. Les règles de la procédure commerciale Ottomane concernant les jugements par défaut et l'opposition à ces jugements s'appliquent également aux jugements du Maire de la commune rurale.

Art. 11. Si les deux parties font défaut, la cause sera effacée du rôle, et le demandeur ne pourra y revenir que par une nouvelle requête introductive d'instance.

Art. 12. Si au jour de l'audience les parties sont présentes, on procédera d'abord à la lecture des actes, après quoi elles auront la parole. Le Maire d'une commune rurale pourra poser aux parties toutes les questions non tendancieuses qu'il croira convenables pour éclaircir la question, et il aura le devoir d'instruire les parties sur les droits que leur accordent le Statut et le présent Règlement Provisoire.

Art. 13. Après que la cause aura été entendue, le Maire de la commune rurale prononcera la clôture des débats et essaiera de nouveau, avec le concours des Assesseurs, de concilier les parties. Si tout arrangement est repoussé, le Maire ouïs les Assesseurs, rendra son jugement et le prononcera séance tenante.

Art. 14. Le Maire d'une commune rurale devra tenir un registre où seront inscrites toutes les contestations qui lui seront soumises et les décisions y relatives.

Ce registre contiendra le nom des parties, l'objet du litige, la date de l'audience, un résumé des dires et moyens des parties et des dépositions des témoins, s'il y en a. Il renfermera en outre, s'il y a eu conciliation entre les parties, les termes de cet accord; s'il n'y a pas eu conciliation, l'avis des Assesseurs et enfin la décision prononcée par le Maire de la commune rurale.

Chaque page du registre devra porter la signature ou le sceau du Maire, des Assesseurs, et du greffier.

Art. 15. Dans un délai de huit jours au plus tard à partir de la date de la publication du jugement, le Maire devra en notifier copie à chacune des parties contre reçu portant la date du jour de la notification.

(b.)—Juges de Canton.

Art. 16. Les Juges de Canton sont choisis par le Gouverneur-Général sur des listes dressées par les Conseils-Généraux des départements en double du nombre des Juges nécessaires.

Le Gouverneur-Général, sur la proposition de l'Administrateur-Général de la Justice, fait les nominations sans être astreint à nommer les Juges de Canton dans le département où ils ont été proposés.

Art. 17. Le Gouverneur-Général, pour la première année, aura le droit de fixer les circonscriptions judiciaires cantonales, tant qu'elles n'auront pas été déterminées par une loi provinciale.

Art. 18. Le Juge de Canton connaîtra, conformément à l'Article 35 du Chapitre IX, de toutes actions mobilières et personnelles et en outre:—

1. De toutes actions entre propriétaires et preneurs;

2. Des actions pour dommages faits aux champs, fruits et récoltes, arbres, haies, fossés, canaux, maisons, et autres propriétés, lorsque les droits de propriété ne sont pas contestés;

3. Des actions relatives aux constructions et aux travaux à faire sur un mur dont la mitoyenneté n'est pas contestée;

4. De toutes actions possessoires;

5. Des actions en dommages-intérêts pour cause d'injures, de diffamation, ou de voies de fait.

Art. 19. Les Juges de Canton tiendront audience autant de fois qu'il sera nécessaire dans la semaine, en tout cas, une fois au moins tous les huit jours.

Art. 20. La procédure devant le Juge de Canton sera la même que celle par devant le Maire de commune rurale, à l'exception de l'essai de conciliation qui sera fait une seule fois au début de l'audience.

Art. 21. Le délai pour interjeter appel contre les jugements rendus par le Juge de Canton est de quinze jours. Il sera formé par requête adressée au Juge de Canton lui-même, qui la transmettra dans les huit jours avec toutes les minutes au Tribunal d'Appel.

(c.)—Tribunaux de Département.

Art. 22. Jusqu'à la promulgation d'un nouveau Code Civil, l'un des Juges de la section civile de chaque Tribunal de département, ainsi qu'un des Conseillers de la Chambre chargée de connaître des questions immobilières de la section civile de la Cour d'Appel, devra être un membre du clergé Ottoman (Naïb) dûment qualifié, et qui aura, outre les fonctions de Juge, l'attribution spéciale d'éclairer le Tribunal sur les dispositions des lois et de la jurisprudence Musulmanes, du Chériat, toutes les fois que le Tribunal aura à examiner des questions immobilières régies par les lois et la jurisprudence susdites.

L'avis exprimé par le Juge spirituel sera inséré au procès-verbal des délibérations, quelque soit le résultat de ces dernières.

Art. 23. Les Tribunaux de département tiendront audience tous les jours de la semaine, excepté les Vendredis et Dimanches.

Art. 24. Le Président du Tribunal fixera d'avance au moins un jour dans la semaine pour les audiences en matière commerciale et en donnera avis aux Assesseurs.

Art. 25. Lorsqu'il s'agira de questions régies par les lois et la jurisprudence ecclésiastique Musulmane (Cher'i-Cherif), portant surtout sur la validité des titres de propriété exhibés ou concernant des fondations pieuses (vacoufs), le Tribunal pourra, par analogie des Articles 39 et 40 du Code de Procédure Commerciale Ottoman, nommer une Commission chargée d'examiner les pièces, de ouïr les parties et

d'exprimer ensuite son opinion dans un rapport motivé au Tribunal, qui aura la faculté d'en adopter, modifier, rejeter les conclusions, ou de renvoyer par devant la même Commission pour des éclaircissements plus amples.

Art. 26. Ces Commissions seront toujours composées de cinq personnes, dont trois élues par le Tribunal et deux désignées par les parties en cause. Le Naïb ou Juge ecclésiastique, membre du Tribunal, présidera de droit ces Commissions.

(d.)—Cour d'Appel.

Art. 27. Lors de la première organisation de la Cour d'Appel, il ne sera institué que les deux sections—la section civile et la section criminelle.

La constitution des cinq Chambres n'aura lieu qu'au fur et à mesure quelle sera nécessitée par le nombre des affaires.

Art. 28. Pour chaque Chambre de la Cour d'Appel et pour chaque Tribunal de département l'Administrateur de la Justice dresse une liste de candidats en triple nombre des Magistrats à nommer.

Le Comité Permanent a le droit de biffer les tiers des noms de chacune de ces listes.

Les nominations sont faites par le Gouverneur-Général parmi les noms restants.

(e.)—Procédure en Appel.

Art. 29. Dans les cas d'appel d'un jugement rendu par un Juge de Canton, le Président du Tribunal du département convoque deux ou quatre Juges des deux sections civile et criminelle, et en forme le Tribunal d'Appel.

Les règles établies pour la Cour d'Appel sont appliquées aux Tribunaux de département agissant en qualité de Tribunaux d'Appel.

Art. 30. Les requêtes d'appel sont présentées au Président du Tribunal qui a rendu le jugement contre lequel est appel, et par lui transmises avec les minutes du jugement et autres pièces, s'il y en a, à la deuxième instance, dans un délai de quinze jours.

Art. 31. Ces requêtes devront contenir expressément, outre la désignation des noms et qualités des parties, la déclaration de vouloir appeler du jugement dont on se croira grevé et l'élection d'un domicile au siége du Tribunal d'Appel, à peine de nullité.

Art. 32. Le double de cette requête devra être notifié à l'intimé en même temps qu'aura lieu la transmission à l'instance supérieure.

Art. 33. Aussitôt que la Cour d'Appel ou un Tribunal de département recevra la transmission de la requête ou déclaration d'appel ainsi formée, ils devront immédiatement la faire enregistrer par le greffier sur un registre *ad hoc*, avec indication précise de la date de cet enregistrement, qui sera aussi mentionnée au dos de la requête.

Art. 34. Dans les trente jours, à partir de la déclaration, l'appelant devra, sous peine de déchéance, présenter ou faire présenter directement à la Cour d'Appel un mémoire d'appel en double relatant la date et le numéro de sa requête de déclaration d'appel, contenant ses conclusions motivées d'appel, et formulant la demande expresse que l'intimé soit assigné à comparaître à audience fixe pour la discussion de la cause.

Art. 35. Le Tribunal d'Appel notifiera le double de ce mémoire à l'intimé avec assignation de comparaître à audience fixe, par l'entremise du Tribunal de Première Instance dont le jugement est attaqué.

Il fera afficher le double de l'assignation à son parquet.

Au jour indiqué pour l'audience il procédera à l'examen de l'appel, et il prononcera son arrêt, même par défaut, sans être tenu de s'enquérir si l'intimé a reçu notification de l'assignation. Toute partie intimée aura le droit d'abréger le délai pour l'introduction de l'appel, aussitôt qu'elle sera informée de la déclaration, en faisant diligence et en demandant au Tribunal d'Appel de donner assignation à l'appelant de comparaître à audience fixe.

Art. 36. Sur la demande de l'intimé pour l'introduction de l'appel déclaré par l'appelant, il sera donné assignation à ce dernier de comparaître à audience fixe, et l'assignation sera simplement notifiée au domicile élu dans la déclaration d'appel.

Art. 37. Si aucune des parties ne comparaît à l'audience fixée par le Tribunal d'Appel, la cause sera effacée du rôle, sauf aux parties à l'introduire de nouveau s'il en est encore temps.

Art. 38. Après le délai de trente jour fixé à l'Article 34, si aucune des parties

n'a introduit ou poursuivi l'appel à l'audience, la déclaration d'appel sera considérée non avenue et il y aura chose jugée.

Art. 39. La déchéance de l'appel sera constatée par simple attestation du Tribunal d'Appel toutes les fois que pendant trente jours à partir de la date de l'enregistrement de la requête de déclaration, l'appel n'a pas été introduit ou poursuivi à l'audience.

Art. 40. Les greffiers de la Cour d'Appel devront livrer des certificats à toutes parties qui les réclameraient, en les munissant du sceau du Tribunal et en les faisant contresigner par le Président.

Art. 41. Les autres règles de procédure mentionnées au cours du présent Règlement, ainsi que celles du Code de Procédure Commerciale Ottoman, seront observées également par la Cour d'Appel.

(f.)—Règles Spéciales de Compétence.

Art. 42. En matière personnelle, le Tribunal de son domicile, s'il n'a pas de domicile devant le Tribunal de sa résidence et, s'il y a plusieurs défendeurs, devant le Tribunal du domicile de l'un d'eux au choix des demandeurs ;

En matière réelle devant le Tribunal de la situation de l'objet litigieux ;

En matière de société, tant qu'elle existe, devant le Tribunal du lieu où elle est établie ;

En matière de succession, sur les demandes qui seraient introduites par des créanciers du défunt avant le partage, devant le Tribunal du lieu où la succession est ouverte.

Art. 43. En matière de garantie le défendeur sera assigné devant le Juge où la demande originaire sera pendante ;

Enfin devant le Tribunal de la situation de l'objet religieux, lorsqu'il s'agira des actions énumérées dans les alinéas 1 à 5 de l'Article 16 du présent Règlement.

(B.)—*Autorités Judiciaires, Criminelles, et Correctionnelles.*

(a.)—Maire de Communes rurales.

Art. 44. Le Maire d'une commune rurale est chargé de la recherche et punition des contraventions indiquées dans l'Article 45 du Chapitre IX.

Art. 45. Lorsqu'il aura connaissance d'une contravention commise dans la commune qui lui est confiée, il procédera immédiatement.

Art. 46. Il fait comparaître devant lui l'inculpé et le plaignant, s'il y en a, et examine l'affaire.

Art. 47. Il est tenu de dresser procès-verbal sur le fait et l'examen de l'affaire, lequel contiendra les noms des personnes qui ont comparu devant lui, la nature du fait, et les temps et lieu où il a été commis.

Art. 48. Le fait étant dûment constaté, l'Arrêt est prononcé immédiatement.

L'Arrêt est inséré au procès-verbal.

Art. 49. Si la constatation du fait ne peut avoir lieu dans la première audience, le Maire fixe un jour pour l'examen ultérieur de l'affaire.

Ce procédé pourra être répété par deux fois.

Art. 50. Si trente jours après l'instruction de l'affaire par le Maire le fait commis n'est pas dûment constaté, ni l'Arrêt prononcé, la personne présumée coupable ne peut plus être poursuivie du fait de la contravention commise.

Art. 51. Cette prescription ne portera pas préjudice aux droits de la partie civile de réclamer des dommages-intérêts.

Art. 52. Tout Maire d'une commune rurale qui aurait prononcé et exécuté contre quiconque une peine plus élevée que le maximum fixé par le Statut est passible d'une amende de 500 à 1,000 piastres, outre les peines auxquelles il pourra être condamné, si le fait est qualifié plus gravement par le Code Pénal.

Il doit être déclaré, en outre, déchu de ses fonctions à la première récidive.

Art. 53. Le Procureur du département, qui est chargé spécialement de la surveillance des Maires des communes rurales en leur qualité de Juges prononcera les peines mentionnées à l'Article précédent.

(b.)—Juges de Canton.

Art. 54. Dans les cas précisés par le premier alinéa de l'Article —— du Chapitre IX, le Juge de Canton procédera d'office aussitôt qu'il aura reçu connaissance, sans en donner avis, ni au Tribunal ni au Procureur du département.

Art. 55. Il citera les personnes présumées coupables, ainsi que le plaignant et les témoins, moyennant simple mandat de comparaître.

Si le prévenu ne comparaît pas sur le mandat qui lui a été dûment signifié, il est cité encore une fois avec sommation de comparaître ; faute de quoi, il serait procédé par contumace.

Art. 56. Si, à la seconde citation, le prévenu fait défaut, le Juge procède par contumace et prononce l'Arrêt, toutes les constatations faites contre l'absent.

Art. 57. Si le prévenu comparaît et que le plaignant fasse défaut, il sera procédé également par défaut.

Art. 58. Le prévenu, ainsi que la partie civile, auront le droit de faire opposition à tout Arrêt rendu en leur absence.

Art. 59. L'opposition sera introduite par devant le même Juge qui a rendu l'Arrêt contre lequel l'opposition est formée, dans un délai de quinze jours après notification de l'Arrêt.

Art. 60. L'opposition étant introduite, le Juge fixe une nouvelle audience, et cite les deux parties pour le jour fixé.

Art. 61. A la nouvelle audience, la partie qui fait opposition doit justifier par des motifs plausibles son défaut.

Art. 62. Si les motifs allégués ne sont pas de nature à prouver un empêchement réel de comparaître, l'opposition est rejetée, et le premier Arrêt confirmé.

Art. 63. Si, au contraire, ces motifs sont suffisants pour justifier le défaut, le Juge déclare le premier Arrêt nul et non avenu et recommence l'instruction de l'affaire.

Art. 64. Lorsque les deux parties sont présentes, il sera procédé à l'examen contradictoire de l'affaire ; les témoins déposeront en présence des deux parties, qui auront le droit de leur faire adresser par le Juge des questions qu'elles auront formulées elles-mêmes.

Art. 65. L'action est représentée par le plaignant au préjudice duquel le fait a été commis, et qui se constitue partie civile, ou par le fonctionnaire, ou par l'officier de l'autorité qui a dénoncé le cas au Juge.

Art. 66. S'il devient nécessaire d'inspecter les lieux, le Juge assisté de son greffier s'y transportera.

Les parties peuvent assister à l'inspection.

Art. 67. L'Arrêt est prononcé séance tenante.

Copie de l'Arrêt est délivrée aux parties.

Art. 68. Le délai pour interjeter appel est de quinze jours après notification de l'Arrêt.

Ce délai porte déchéance.

Art. 69. Tous les actes d'appel, même ceux qui sont hors de délai, seront soumis par le Juge au Tribunal d'Appel dans le délai de huit jours.

Art. 70. Lorsque l'Arrêt prononcé aura acquis force de loi, le Juge procédera d'office à l'exécution.

Pour ce qui est des dommages-intérêts à payer à la partie civile, c'est elle qui en demandera l'exécution.

Art. 71. Le Juge de Canton tient un registre séparé, sur lequel seront portés tous les Arrêts en matière correctionnelle, sommairement avec la date de la publication de l'appel et de l'exécution.

Art. 72. Copie de ce registre est envoyée chaque mois au Procureur de département.

Art. 73. Les condamnés sont écroués dans la prison communale de la résidence du Juge, qui est tenu de la visiter au moins une fois par mois, d'en surveiller l'aménagement et de contrôler les registres d'entrée et de sortie des prisonniers.

La garde en est confiée à la gendarmerie.

(c.)—Tribunaux de Département.

Art. 74. Toutes dénonciations de crimes ou délits commis dans le département seront reçues par le Procureur.

Il recevra également toutes les plaintes, portées en forme de requêtes adressées au Tribunal en matière criminelle ou correctionnelle, sans que le Tribunal les soumette à un examen préalable quelconque.

Art. 75. Tous les fonctionnaires administratifs ou judiciaires du département, nommément les Maires des communes rurales et les officiers de la gendarmerie, sont tenus sous leur responsabilité personnelle de donner immédiatement avis au Procureur de tout crime ou délit dont ils auront acquis connaissance.

Art. 76. Dès qu'une dénonciation quelconque sera parvenue au Procureur, il la transmettra, s'il y a lieu de procéder, au Juge d'Instruction avec réquisitoire d'amener ou arrêter le prévenu, de procéder à l'inspection des lieux ou du corps du délit, ou à tout autre acte d'instruction nécessaire.

Art. 77. Dans tous les cas graves le Procureur se rend personnellement sur les lieux accompagné d'un greffier. Il peut y déléguer également son substitut.

Il est accompagné, en outre, du Juge d'Instruction, qui contresigne le procès-verbal.

Art. 78. Le Juge d'Instruction est libre d'instruire l'affaire qui lui est déférée d'après la manière qui lui semble la plus efficace et la plus prompte.

Art. 79. Au Rapport qu'il adressera au Procureur après avoir terminé l'instruction seront annexées les minutes des procès-verbaux, dressés pendant le cours de l'instruction et toutes autres pièces y relatives, ainsi que tous les objets et papiers saisis.

Art. 80. Le Procureur veillera à ce que ce Rapport lui soit soumis à temps par le Juge d'Instruction.

Art. 81. Une Ordonnance de non-lieu ne peut être délivrée que par le Procureur ou le Tribunal.

Art. 82. Lorsque le Procureur aura trouvé dans le matériel de l'instruction des motifs pour formuler un acte d'accusation, il le soumettra au Tribunal.

Art. 83. Le Tribunal fixe le jour de l'audience.

Art. 84. Seront cités à comparaître à l'audience l'accusé, la partie civile, les témoins et les experts, s'il y en a.

Art. 85. A l'audience le Procureur donne lecture de son acte d'accusation.

Art. 86. Lecture est donnée également du Rapport du Juge d'Instruction et des pièces y annexées.

Art. 87. Le Juge présidant le Tribunal fait subir d'abord un interrogatoire à l'accusé et aux témoins.

Les autres Juges ainsi que le Procureur ont le droit de poser des questions à l'accusé et aux témoins.

L'accusé, ou son Conseil, peuvent également questionner les témoins.

Art. 88. Les témoins prêtent serment à l'audience.

Art. 89. A la suite des dépositions des témoins et des dires auxquels elles auront donné lieu, la partie civile et le Procureur développeront les moyens qui appuient l'accusation.

L'accusé et son Conseil pourront leur répondre.

La réplique sera permise à la partie civile et au Procureur, mais l'accusé et son Conseil auront toujours la parole les derniers.

Art. 90. Le Tribunal prononce la clôture des débats et se retire pour délibérer.

Art. 91. La délibération est secrète et l'Arrêt est rendu à la majorité des voix.

Il est publié séance tenante.

(d.)—Procédure en Appel.

Art. 92. La procédure en appel est la même que celle suivie par les Tribunaux de département.

Art. 93. Tous les actes d'appel seront soumis d'abord au Procureur-Général qui les examine et les soumet ensuite à la Cour avec ses conclusions.

Art. 94. La Cour fixe l'audience et cite ou fait amener toutes les personnes qui étaient présentes à l'audience du Tribunal de Première Instance.

La Cour, sur la proposition du Ministère Public ou de la défense, peut renvoyer l'affaire au Tribunal de Première Instance pour compléter l'instruction, en fixant un terme à cet effet.

(e.)—Taxes Judiciaires.

Art. 95. Les droits et taxes judiciaires seront réglés par un Tarif spécial, qui sera affiché dans chaque Tribunal.

Jusqu'à promulgation du nouveau Tarif, les taxes perçues actuellement continueront à être prélevées.

Les greffiers sont chargés de la perception.

Chapitre X.—Instruction Publique.

(Adopté en Première Lecture.)

Article 1er. Les frais résultant de la création et de l'entretien des écoles primaires et secondaires sont à la charge des communautés religieuses.

L'administration intérieure et spéciale des écoles, y compris la nomination du corps enseignant appartient à la communauté religieuse, qui en supporte les frais.

Art. 2. Dans le cas où une communauté ne disposerait pas de ressources suffisantes pour créer ou entretenir des écoles primaires, ainsi que des écoles secondaires, là où ces dernières seraient reconnues nécessaires, il pourrait être alloué par la loi du budget de la province une subvention spéciale à la dite communauté.

Art. 3. Il sera en outre, dans chaque budget annuel, assigné une certaine somme pour servir de subvention aux écoles. La distribution de cette somme sera opérée par un règlement d'administration publique. Elle se fera de telle sorte que les subventions qui reviennent d'après les Articles 2 et 3 aux différentes communautés religieuses répondent approximativement aux proportions dans lesquelles ces communautés contribuent aux charges de la province.

Art. 4. Aucune école (primaire, secondaire, technique, normale, ou autre) à la charge de la province ne peut être établie ou maintenue qu'en vertu d'une loi.

Cette loi réglera l'administration intérieure de l'école, le mode de nomination du corps enseignant, le programme des études, &c.

Les instituteurs enseignant aux écoles de la province seront soumis aux lois réglant la discipline ainsi que les droits et devoirs des autres fonctionnaires.

Art. 5. Si par une loi provinciale la création d'une Université est décidée, cette loi devra s'inspirer des principes suivants:—

(a.) Le corps enseignant sera divisé en professeurs titulaires, recevant un traitement fixe du Gouvernement et en agrégés, qui ne toucheront pas de traitement fixe.

(b.) Les professeurs titulaires seront, sur la proposition du Directeur de l'Instruction Publique, nommés par le Gouverneur-Général. Le corps enseignant une fois formé, les nominations pour les postes vacants se feront par le Gouverneur-Général sur la présentation des professeurs titulaires.

(c.) Pour les nominations des professeurs titulaires le Gouverneur tiendra compte, autant que possible, des chiffres proportionnels des habitants des trois principales nationalités de la province.

(d.) Pour devenir agrégé il suffira de justifier des conditions de capacité et de moralité exigées par la loi.

(e.) Chaque professeur a le droit de choisir lui-même la langue dans laquelle il veut faire son cours.

Art. 6. Tout particulier a quelque nationalité ou culte qu'il appartienne, a le droit d'établir une école, pourvu qu'il remplisse les conditions de moralité et de capacité prescrites par la loi.

Art. 7. L'instruction primaire est obligatoire.

Les enfants qui ont atteint l'âge de sept ans révolus sont tenus de fréquenter les écoles primaires.

Cette obligation dure jusqu'à ce qu'ils aient atteint l'âge de 13 ans.

Art. 8. L'instruction aux écoles publiques pourra être remplacée par l'enseignement privé, si le père de l'enfant ou son tuteur prouve que l'instituteur ou l'institutrice choisi par lui remplit les conditions de capacité et de moralité demandées par la loi.

Art. 9. Aucun enfant ne pourra être admis à l'enseignement d'une religion autre que la sienne.

Art. 10. La haute surveillance de l'instruction publique et privée appartient au Directeur de l'Instruction Publique, lequel l'exercera conformément aux lois et aux règlements par des Inspecteurs nommés pour chaque canton en nombre suffisant.

Ces Inspecteurs seront pris parmi les Notables de la communauté religieuse dont ils auront à surveiller les écoles.

Les Inspecteurs des écoles ne seront pas rétribués. Il pourra cependant leur être alloué une indemnité à titre de frais de tournées.

Les Inspecteurs veilleront à ce que les écoles primaires soit assidûment fréquentées. Ils surveilleront le corps enseignant et remettront au Directeur de l'Instruction Publique des notes périodiques sur la moralité et le zèle des instituteurs, ainsi que

sur l'observation exacte par ces derniers des lois et règlements concernant le programme des études, &c.

Une loi provinciale déterminera leur nombre et définira en détail leurs fonctions.

Art. 11. Dans le cas où un instituteur enseignant à une école appartenant à une communauté religieuse négligerait grossièrement ses devoirs professionnels ou se rendrait par son inconduite indigne d'exercer ses fonctions, l'Inspecteur devrait le dénoncer au Directeur de l'Instruction Publique, qui le ferait traduire devant la section correctionnelle du Tribunal du département; celle-ci prononcerait la destitution de l'inculpé après enquête contradictoire.

Art. 12. Une loi provinciale arrêtera un programme normal pour l'instruction primaire et secondaire.

Art. 13. Aucune communauté religieuse ne pourra être tenue d'introduire dans ses écoles une autre langue que la sienne propre.

Art. 14. Par contre il sera loisible à toute communauté de faire enseigner dans ses écoles telles langues vivantes ou mortes qu'elle jugera utiles, et même d'y faire faire des cours dans ces langues.

Art. 15. Les dispositions des deux Articles précédents s'appliquent également aux écoles fondées et dirigées par des particuliers, ainsi qu'il est dit à l'Article 6.

No. 374.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 53. Political.)
Cettigné, March 29, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 47, Political, of the 20th instant, I have the honour to report that Colonel Thoemmel now informs me that he has induced Prince Nicholas to direct the Herzegovinian Chiefs who have taken refuge in the Principality to proceed with their families to the Canton of the Moratcha, which is the furthest removed from their country. Lands will there be allotted to them for cultivation, and they will be placed under the surveillance of the Captain of the district, who will be responsible for their not escaping from Montenegro.

The Austrian Minister refused to agree to an offer made by Prince Nicholas to send the Chiefs into Turkish territory near Ipek, as, he said, they would most likely join the Mufti of Taslidza, who is organizing in that direction a resistance against the expected advance of the Austrians on Novi-Bazar, and as they would be able to be in direct communication with the Servian political societies, which are at the bottom of all the difficulties still encountered by the Austrian authorities in Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 375.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 55. Political.)
Scutari, April 4, 1879.

My Lord,

WHILST I was at Cettigné I received several telegrams from Kiamil Pasha, the Imperial Commissioner here, asking me to bring to the notice of Prince Nicholas the fact that the Mahommedan inhabitants of the newly-annexed districts were abandoning their homes, as they understood the Montenegrin Government was about to enrol them immediately into its army.

Notwithstanding that I was able to reply on each occasion that I had obtained the assurance of the Prince that there was no intention whatever to carry out the rumoured enrolment, when I returned here Kiamil Pasha appeared to consider that I had been duped at Cettigné, and that I was showing too great partiality for Montenegrin explanations by declining to believe the reports of Turkish officers on the new frontiers.

I was obliged to point out to his Excellency that the matter was not one of believing a Turk rather than a Montenegrin, or *vice versâ*; but I, as Her Majesty's Representative in Montenegro, having received solemn assurances from the Prince and his Ministers, was fully entitled to expect that I had not been deceived; and consequently I, if anybody,

ought to be surprised that disinclination was shown to credit assurances given through me in my official capacity.

However, to show Kiamil Pasha my anxiety to help in putting a stop to an emigration which is exposing so many people to great misery and privations, and is sure to end in the ruin of most of them, I consented to address to Voïvoda Radonich the telegram of which the inclosed is a translation.

To-day I have received from the Montenegrin Minister a reply (copy herewith furnished) entirely supporting the position I had taken up. I have communicated it to Kiamil Pasha, and his Excellency has thanked me for having led Prince Nicholas to promise to act in a manner which will most likely dispel the fears which were driving the Mahommedans to quit Montenegrin territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 375.

Consul Kirby Green to M. Radonich.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.)
Scutari, March 31, 1879.

I BEG your Excellency to inform His Highness that, in compliance with his wish, immediately on my return here, I sought to ascertain the motive for the emigration of the Mahommedans. It seems that there is no other reason for their departure than the idea that they are about to be at once enrolled in His Highness' army. I believe that the promulgation of a notice by the authorities to the effect that, although all foreigners in Montenegro must conform themselves to the laws of the country, still the Government will not require military service from those who have not yet decided ("opté") to become Montenegrins until after the termination of the delay granted to the annexed populations for coming to a decision, will be sufficient to put a stop to all emigration.

Kiamil Pasha informs me that he will communicate with the competent authorities concerning the rayahs who wish to return to their villages beyond the eastern borders of your frontiers.

Inclosure 2 in No. 375.

M. Radonich to Consul Kirby Green.

(Télégraphique.)
Cettigné, le 2 Avril, 1879, 12·2 p.m.

J'AI eu l'honneur de communiquer à son Altesse le contenu du télégramme que vous m'avez adressé. Le Gouvernement Princier approuve entièrement votre manière voir et agira en conséquence.

No. 376.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 56. Political.)
Scutari, April 4, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despath No. 52, Political, of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to report that Major-General Rizah Pasha, the Chief of the Staff here, tells me that he has to-day received a telegram from the Porte informing him that he has been appointed First Turkish Delegate on the Commission for the delimitation of the new Montenegrin frontiers, and that two other staff officers have already left Constantinople to place themselves under his orders for the work in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 377.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 16.)

(No. 285.)

Pera, April 1, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney, inclosing a further Petition which has been addressed to your Lordship by the Albanian Chiefs relative to the cession of Albanian territory to Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 377.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Malet.

Prevesa, March 24, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, under flying seal, another Petition addressed to the Marquis of Salisbury by the Albanian Chiefs, which was handed to me yesterday by Vessel Bey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 377.

Petition.

Preveza, le 22 *Mars*, 1879.

Excellence,

QUAND une lutte acharnée éclata entre la Turquie et la Russie, tout le reste de l'Europe n'eut qu'une pensée, un but humanitaire, la ferme résolution d'imposer aux combattants une paix dont les conditions fussent conformes aux tendances des populations et au principe des nationalités.

L'Albanie, très peu connue, pauvre et montagneuse, l'Albanie, qui cependant par le courage de ses soldats avait rendu de grands services à la cause de la Turquie; renfermée comme elle se trouve entre Slaves et Grecs, ne pouvait jamais supposer que par le Traité de Berlin elle devrait subir un démembrement de son territoire tel, qu'il aurait pour suite inévitable la perte de ses droits les plus imprescriptibles à une nationalité bien caractérisée. Mais dès que plusieurs cessions de leurs territoires ont été faites à la Serbie et au Monténégro, et qu'on les menace aujourd'hui d'une cession bien plus importante à la Grèce, les Albanais tant Musulmans que Chrétiens croient de leur devoir (avant de recourir aux armes pour la défense de leur pays), d'exposer à la Sublime Porte et aux Cabinets de l'Europe les raisons multiples qui, à leur avis, rendent impraticable en ce qui regarde l'Epire, le désir manifesté par les Puissances dans le Protocole No. 13 du Congrès de Berlin.

Par le télégramme et le mémoire que nous avons eu l'honneur de vous adresser le 28 Janvier et le 28 Février, votre Excellence a pu se rendre compte de la grande effervescence qui s'est produite dans notre pays et les dangers imminents résultant de cette surexcitation des esprits.

Nous nous permettons maintenant de soumettre à la haute appréciation de votre Excellence les motifs qui nous forceraient à la résistance la plus désespérée que l'histoire aura à enregistrer dans notre siècle.

Votre Excellence n'ignore pas que les Albanais descendent des Troyens, qu'Eléne, troisième fils de Priam, partit avec des Selèges (synonyme de Pelasgiens) et se réfugia en Epire; que les quatorze peuples qui en furent les descendants sous l'hégémonie du Royaume des Molosses s'opposèrent toujours avec succès à la domination de la Grèce; et que, si Philippe de Macédoine occupa pendant quelque temps la seule Ambracie (district d'Arta) dans toute l'Epire, l'on n'a jamais compté d'autres colonies Grecques que celle de Dyrrachium (Durazzo) des Coreyrais, Apollonie des Corinthiens, près de Valono, et Argus Amphilochicum, près de Komboti. Votre Excellence sait aussi que les Romains appelaient toute l'Albanie, Dardania, justement à cause de son origine; Tite-Live, Pondonius, Polybe, Strabon, et tant d'autres écrivains parlent des Epirotes comme d'une race bien différente des Grecs, n'ayant pas d'écritures et un peu barbare, mais aguerrie à tel point que Paul Emile, pour se frayer un passage vers

la Macédoine, dut détruire soixante-dix villes et faire 150,000 esclaves. Auguste dut renfermer dans la ville de Picopoli toutes ces peuplades qui se révoltaient très-souvent pour la défense de leur liberté et de leur indépendance.

Du reste, en Epire, les figures nationales et historiques de Pyrrhus, Scander Bey, et Ali Pacha de Tépédélen prouvent à l'évidence que dans les anciens temps, comme dans le moyen âge et encore de nos jours, le peuple Albanais a toujours été fier de sa nationalité, et n'a jamais eu de rapports de race avec les Ioniens. En effet, pour s'en convaincre, il n'y a qu'à observer la structure tout-à-fait différente de nos crânes; les Grecs sont brachicéphales, les Albanais sont dolicocéphales (courte tête) et manquent absolument de la protubérance occiputale à tel point que pour cacher cette difformité ils ont adopté dès les temps anciens une coupe spéciale des cheveux. Les mœurs, les habitudes, le costume, le genre de nourriture des Albanais sont si différents de ceux des Grecs qu'il ne peut exister de doute sur leur origine bien distincte. Ce qui n'empêche pas cependant qu'en Grèce, en Morée, et en Acarnanie surtout, il n'y ait des habitants qui ont avec nous quelques affinités, parce qu'ils descendent de nos immigrations. Il n'en est pas moins vrai non plus, malgré l'avis contraire de Xylandre et du Baron Hahn, que la langue, Albanaise est une langue monosyllabique, très-différente de la langue Grecque. Cependant, comme ce n'est que depuis quelques années que nous avons des alphabets empruntés aux langues Latine, Grecque, ou Slave, il ne doit point paraître étrange que la langue Grecque ait pris le dessus dans certains districts limitrophes de la Grèce, d'autant plus que la Sublime Porte, pour des motifs qu'il ne nous appartient pas de discuter, s'est toujours opposée à l'établissement d'écoles où les cours se seraient faits en langue Albanaise. La question de la langue n'est pas suffisante, croyons nous, pour attribuer à la Grèce un titre à la possession de ces territoires; parce que en adoptant ce seul critérium, l'on devrait remanier presque toute la carte de l'Europe. On nous assure que la Grèce a réclamé une partie de notre pays, en se prévalant des sympathies que nos populations auraient montrées en sa faveur lors de la dernière invasion. Eh bien, il faut que l'Europe sache la vérité à cet égard ne pas être dupe des mensonges des journaux Grecs. Dans toute l'Epire, une cinquantaine d'individus suspects de vols ou de crimes sont seuls allés s'enrôler parmi les volontaires Grecs. Tous les chefs des expéditions de Lieurzi et de Radovizi étaient Grecs ou étrangers. Tels que Tristaki, Lazzaretto, Pennazzi, Stupa, Harioli, &c. Les prisonniers faits par les autorités Turques et conduits à Janina étaient tous Grecs. Les armes trouvées en grande quantité près de Lieurzi étaient les mêmes que celles qui servent à l'armée Grecque (carabine Gras et Hiliona).

Enfin, à la bataille de Lieurzi, plus de 700 Epirotes Chrétiens ont combattu comme volontaires contre les Grecs, ce qui prouve assez de quel genre est leur sympathie pour la cause Hellénique.

Mais en mettant de côté la question principale de nationalité, nos compatriotes Chrétiens peuvent-ils désirer l'avènement du Gouvernement Hellénique, malgré les promesses des émissaires Grecs, que l'on fera comme jadis en Morée un partage des propriétés des Musulmans entre les Chrétiens? D'abord, peuvent-ils croire que l'Europe, qui soutient une lutte acharnée contre le communisme, en permettrait ici l'application? En dehors de ces considérations, les Chrétiens de l'Epire sont trop près de la Grèce pour ignorer qu'en cas d'annexion à ce pays ils payeraient au moins le triple d'impôt de ce qu'ils payent actuellement, que leurs propriétés ne seraient pas garanties, qu'ils cesseraient enfin de faire partie d'un grand Empire pour être incorporés à un petit Royaume, où, d'après les statistiques, les meurtres, les vols, et les crimes sont beaucoup plus fréquents qu'en Turquie, où l'agriculture est très-arriérée, où les voies de communication manquent comme chez nous, et où l'instruction publique n'est pas plus avancée qu'ici. L'Acarnanie et l'Etolie sont sous les yeux du monde pour prouver ce que nous affirmons.

Si ces raisons existent pour la population Chrétienne, il y en a d'autres beaucoup plus graves qui font considérer aux Musulmans la perspective d'une annexion à la Grèce comme l'acte le plus odieux et le plus inique qui se serait accompli au dix-neuvième siècle. La religion foulée aux pieds, le secret du foyer domestique violé de toutes les façons, l'Hellénisation imposée par tous les moyens au mépris des sentiments les plus saints et les plus respectables, le fanatisme Orthodoxe érigé en système de Gouvernement pour faire disparaître toutes traces de la nationalité Albanaise, tels sont en un mot les principes au moyen desquels la Grèce prétend civiliser des populations dont le seul crime est d'avoir résisté aux envahissements de l'Hellénisme pour conserver malgré tant de malheurs le nom de l'Albanie pour de toute tâche.

Votre Excellence sait parfaitement que d'après le désir manifesté dans le Protocole No. 13 du Congrès de Berlin, parmi les territoires à céder à la Grèce se trouve toute la

côte depuis l'embouchure du Kalama jusqu'à Preveza, où l'élément Albanais se trouve en très-grande majorité, surtout sur les confins de l'Epire. Cette côte renferme les terrains les plus fertiles de toute l'Albanie ainsi que les meilleurs ports; tels que ceux de Mourto, Parga, Preveza, et Salahora, dans le golfe d'Arta. Or, si ces localités sont cédées à la Grèce, trois questions surgissent immédiatement, qui n'intéressent pas seulement les populations locales mais encore toute l'Albanie: la question stratégique, la question commerciale, et la question agraire.

Dès que la Turquie se déciderait à céder le versant à droite de la Vallée de l'Aspropotamos et les forteresses de Preveza, Arta, et Salahora, le reste de l'Albanie serait virtuellement livré à la Grèce, qui pourrait à chaque instant compromettre la sécurité de ce pays, manquant désormais d'une frontière stratégique.

D'autre part, les populations cédées seraient ruinées dans leur principal commerce avec l'Autriche et l'Italie; puisque en payant à la Grèce le 20 pour cent en moyenne comme droit d'exportation au lieu de 10 pour cent qu'elles payent maintenant, elles ne pourraient pas soutenir la concurrence des produits identiques des îles et du continent Grec. Tandis que ce qui resterait intact de l'Albanie n'aurait plus de débouchés à la mer. Enfin, les troupeaux qui de Premmeti, Metzovo, Delvino, &c., descendent pendant l'hiver vers les pâturages situés dans les plaines et sur les collines avoisinant la mer, ne pourraient plus s'y rendre sans payer des droits d'octroi. En dehors de toutes ces considérations qui intéressent notre pays au point de vue matériel, nous tous, Albanais, tant Musulmans que Chrétiens, nous nous présentons aujourd'hui devant le Tribunal de l'Europe; nous nous adressons à la conscience de tous les peuples civilisés pour leur demander justice, et pour les conjurer de ne pas laisser se perpétrer ce crime historique et moral qui s'appelle l'annexion d'une nation à un Etat étranger, au mépris de ses vœux et de ses aspirations.

Nous espérons que votre Excellence voudra bien prendre en considération ces détails sur la vraie situation de l'Epire, et nous sommes convaincus que l'Europe ne prêtera pas son concours à l'anéantissement d'une nation virile qui est bien décidée à se sacrifier tout entière plutôt que de s'annexer au Royaume de Grèce.

Les Commissaires Hellènes viennent de quitter Preveza sans avoir acquiescé aux propositions de la Sublime Porte, dont les sacrifices et les concessions sont devenus inutiles.

Le départ des Délégués de Sa Majesté le Roi nous démontre que le résultat des négociations entre les deux Puissances n'a été que l'insuccès; de sorte que, l'état d'anxiété dans lequel nous nous débattons depuis si longtemps doit encore se prolonger indéfiniment. Nous venons donc déclarer que, si le Gouvernement Hellénique persiste dans la résolution d'empiéter sur les droits du peuple Albanais, nous ne pourrons que rejeter sur lui toute la responsabilité qui découlera des événements, étant décidés pour notre part à défendre jusqu'à la mort notre nationalité.

En priant votre Excellence de vouloir bien agréer d'avance nos remercîments empressés ainsi que l'assurance de notre considération la plus distinguée, nous avons l'honneur, &c.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères,
Londres.

No. 378.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 16.)

(No. 286.)
My Lord,

Pera, April 1, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 269 of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch, addressed by Kiamil Pasha to the Minister of the Interior, which has been communicated to me by the Porte relative to the trial of the Zeitoun prisoners, and stating that fifty-three of them have been already released.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

P.S.—I have sent a copy of this document to Mr. Consul Henderson.

E. B. M.

Inclosure in No. 378.

Kiamil Pasha to Caratheodory Pasha.

Le $\frac{12}{24}$ *Mars*, 1879.

L'INTERROGATOIRE des prisonniers de Zeitoun a commencé soigneusement. Dans le but de compléter les investigations il est nécessaire de faire venir des gens de Zeitoun qui, vu le manque des moyens d'exécution, n'ont pas comparu; par conséquent la sentence n'a pas pu encore être donnée. Les crimes de ces prisonniers étant de différente nature, ceux dont la culpabilité est prouvée jusqu'à un certain point n'ont pas pu naturellement être mis en liberté, et ceux qui ne sont accusés que de petits méfaits ont été relâchés. Le nombre de personnes ainsi élargies jusqu'à ce jour s'élève à cinquante-trois.

Le Gouverneur d'Alep,
(Signé) KIAMIL.

No. 379.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 16.)

(No. 289.)
My Lord,

Pera, April 3, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 257 of the 21st ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Ghalib Pasha, the new Governor-General of the Province of Aleppo, and Mahzar Pasha and Nourian Effendi, Imperial Commissioners for the examination of the circumstances of the late troubles at Zeitoun, and for the elaboration of a scheme of reform for extensive districts of Asia Minor, left yesterday in the French mail-steamer for Alexandretta *en route* for Aleppo.

Lieutenant Chermside, whose selection by Sir Henry Layard to accompany the Commission was approved by your Lordship, left by the same steamer. I have the honour to inclose a copy of the instructions with which I furnished him.

I propose to submit a copy also to the Grand Vizier, that the Porte may be clearly informed of the object of Her Majesty's Government in causing an officer in Her Majesty's Service to be on the spot during the labours of the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 379.

Mr. Malet to Lieutenant Chermside, R.E.

Sir,

Constantinople, March 31, 1879.

A SPECIAL Commission appointed by the Porte, and consisting of Mahzar Pasha and Nourian Effendi, is about to start for Aleppo to inquire into the state of that vilayet and neighbouring districts. Her Majesty's Government take a special interest in the object of this Commission, as the future of a large part of Asia Minor is likely to be involved in the success of its labours. They have therefore decided that it shall be accompanied by an officer in Her Majesty's Service, and Her Majesty's Ambassador having proposed your name to the Marquis of Salisbury, the choice has met with his Lordship's approval, I have therefore to instruct you to proceed to Aleppo by the steamer which leaves Constantinople to-morrow for Alexandretta.

Reasons which I need not enter into have rendered it unadvisible to ask that you should take part officially in the deliberations of the Commission, but you go with the consent and approbation of the Ottoman Government, and the Imperial Commissioner will receive verbal instructions to communicate with you freely on the subject of their proceedings.

You are aware that Kiamil Pasha, the late Vali of Aleppo, has been removed from office in consequence of the representations of Her Majesty's Embassy. His Excellency bore a high reputation for learning and enlightenment, but the indisputable evidence of his acts proved that his policy, which had already led to much suffering, was likely, if continued, to cause local disorders to grow into active revolt among the Christian population, and its suppression by means which have in other parts of the Empire brought discredit on the Ottoman administration. His Excellency, however, answers the

charges brought against him by a denial of their truth, and part of the duty of the Commission will be the investigation into these circumstances. It is desirable that it should be made perfectly clear that his Excellency misled his Government, and that his dismissal was to the interest of the Porte. The condition of the Christians imprisoned by his Excellency has been the subject of many communications between the Porte and the Embassy, which has asked that the less guilty might be liberated on bail, and that the condition of those whom it was necessary to detain should be ameliorated. The Vali resisted the prayer, and many of the prisoners have died. You will ascertain the number, and inquire into the cause of their death.

The instructions to the Commission give it ample power to redress the wrongs under which the population are suffering. You will, by your independent position, be able to give much assistance in bringing these wrongs to light, for circumstances have caused the sufferers to look to us for assistance, and they will lay their grievances without fear before you. In this part of your labour I recommend to you caution in believing in statements made to you, and the strictest impartiality in order to avoid the imputation of favouring Christians to the detriment of Mussulmans, and the loss of influence which would be occasioned by it.

The duties of the Commission include the drawing up of a general scheme of reform for the districts which you will visit. If you have any influence over the preparation of this scheme you will use it to obtain equal justice for all classes and denominations of the Sultan's subjects, for an appropriate distribution of taxation, and for police organization which shall render the country secure for travellers and inhabitants; you will bear in mind that Her Majesty's Government desire above all to consolidate the Empire under the dominion of the Sultan, knowing that the only means to attain this end are the welfare and prosperity of his people.

You will show this instruction to Mr. Consul Henderson on your arrival at Aleppo, and you will report frequently by letter and telegraph to Her Majesty's Embassy, from which you will always receive counsel and support.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. MALET.

No. 380.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 16.)

(No. 292.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 4, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 273 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copies of two further despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, relative to the state of affairs at Zeitoun, and the conduct of Kiamil Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 380.

Consul Henderson to Mr. Malet.

Aleppo, March 18, 1879.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to transmit to your Excellency on the 15th instant a telegram of which the following is a copy:—

"Three more Zeitounli have been killed, Vali in reply to my remonstrances says that they were found dead, and will do nothing. I do not think we can restrain the Zeitounli any longer from retaliating. Could not Omer Pasha be appointed Governor-General *ad interim*, as with Kiamil the position is no longer tenable? He told me yesterday that instead of his being recalled to Constantinople I should have to go there myself. Kiamil Pasha telegraphed to Kadri Pasha, Halim Pasha, and to a native of Aleppo named Aba-il-Huda, whom Sultan lately telegraphed for. He is Sultan's interpreter of dreams, and Said Pasha's intimate friend. Vali alleges that by their influence he has thwarted all attempts of English and French Embassies to dismiss him. Vali shows great animosity in minor questions, such as stopping my excavations at Karchemish, and in refusing to pay British claims, while he pays foreign claims, on which subjects I shall report to you by next mail."

The Armenian Patriarch called on me a few days ago and informed me of the murder of three more Christians by armed Mussulmans on the road near Zeitoun. Two of the corpses had been dragged from the scene of the outrage and thrown into the Pyramus, the third corpse was brought to Marash and interred there. I have received ample proof of the details of this outrage, and of many others daily perpetrated by the Mussulmans on the Christians of Zeitoun. The latter, trusting to my promises that their wrongs would speedily be righted and justice done them if they remained quiet, have till now in no instance retaliated, but their Chiefs have written to me to say that they cannot longer control a population driven desperate by such extreme provocation.

The Vali will do nothing for their relief, and when I spoke to him about this last outrage he replied that the Christians had been found dead, and that probably they might not have been murdered by the Mussulmans! I believe it to be His Excellency's intention to provoke the Christians beyond endurance, in the hope that they may fall on their Mussulman oppressors, and thus give him the pretext for which he has been so long and anxiously waiting of using the large military force collected at Marash.

Pending the arrival of the new Vali, it would be most desirable that Omer Pasha should be charged with the Government, as it is little to be wondered at that a man of such unscrupulous character and detestable conduct as Kiamil Pasha should carry his spite and ill-will towards the poor people whose ill-treatment has cost him his appointment to a degree which is insupportable.

The number of the prisoners who have died in prison now amounts to eighteen.

I have been very careful to avoid all contentious questions with Kiamil Pasha in the present circumstances, but he himself seems to seek every means to annoy me. He came to the Consulate a few days ago, and made it a point of telling me that I should have to go to Constantinople before he did, insinuating that he intended to make some complaint to your Excellency about me. He sent zaptiehs and stopped the excavations I am making at Karchemish for the British Museum, although I hold a Firman conceding to me the right to excavate, and he forcibly took possession of three basalt slabs with valuable inscriptions, which, at considerable expense, I was bringing to Aleppo to have photographed.

He peremptorily stopped the payment of Treasury notes held by British subjects, while he has punctually paid those of other foreigners.

Kiamil Pasha telegraphs to Kadri Pasha, the Minister of the Interior, who is a native of Aintab, in this vilayet, to Halim Pasha, and to Aba-il-Huda, who was recently recalled to Constantinople from Aleppo (where he had been exiled) by express order to interpret His Majesty's dreams. This Sheikh is a creature of Said Pasha's, and is said to possess considerable influence at the Palace; be this as it may, Kiamil Pasha alleges that through these friends he has been able to thwart the efforts of the English and French Embassies to dismiss him, and he has spared no pains to induce the Mussulman population believe in the truth of this assertion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 380.

Consul Henderson to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Aleppo, March* 19, 1879.

THE Eutychian Patriarch again called on me yesterday, and handed to me an immense number of petitions addressed to me by the Christians of Marash and Zeitoun, but, as they are written in Armenian, I have not had time to have them translated. The Patriarch came expressly to inform me of the serious turn affairs had taken at Marash and Zeitoun, and at the request of the Christian members of the various Councils at Marash to implore me, if more bloodshed is to be averted, to take some steps to save them and their co-religionists at Zeitoun.

At Marash the state of affairs could not be worse, and the Government has shown culpable weakness in yielding to the threats of the Circassian emigrants. It appears that the state of the town was such that the acting Mutessarif, who is the General in command of the 1,500 troops stationed there, determined to disarm the Circassians in the town. They resisted, and, on being threatened with force, declared that the first Circassian disarmed would be the signal for a massacre, and they showed such determination that the authorities were afraid to act. They attribute the attempt made to disarm them to the Christians, whom, emboldened by their successful resistance to the authorities, they

are ill-treating with impunity. In the Christian villages near Zeitoun the Mussulmans are driving the Christians out of their houses, and robbing them of their property. At one village, named Azim, they have possessed themselves of the houses, and have broken open the church, and converted it into a dwelling-house, and have forced the Christians to carry the loads of corn robbed from other villages.

At Zeitoun the Christians are in an overwhelming majority, and they declare that they can no longer suffer the outrages committed on them by the Mussulman protégés of the Vali, whom they could, if they wished, so easily crush.

I have ascertained that the Vali has received no intimation of his dismissel, nor has he been ordered to leave Aleppo. On the contrary, I hear that his intrigues have resulted in the Palace objecting to his dismissal until the result of the inquiry be communicated to the Sultan. I also hear that Midhat Pasha has been induced to interest himself in Kiamil Pasha's favour, though personally unacquainted with him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

No. 381.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 16.*)

(No. 294.) *Constantinople, April 4, 1879.*

My Lord,

THE Grand Vizier stated to me yesterday that Musurus Pasha had informed him that negotiations were going on in Paris and London to enable the Porte to raise a loan. It was proposed that the boudholdhers of four special loans, which his Highness did not name, should surrender part of the securities assigned to them on the condition of receiving a certain interest on their bonds, and that a loan should be made to the Porte on the security of the revenues thus surrendered. His Highness thought that this arrangement would obviate a protest on the part of Russia, as it would not pledge new revenues, and he requested me to inform your Lordship that if it was favourably received by Her Majesty's Government, and if Her Majesty's Government would lend it their countenance, he was ready to proceed with the negotiations at once on the part of the Ottoman Government. He understood that the Imperial Ottoman Bank was concerned in these negotiations, and that the scheme was subject to its co-operation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 382.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 16.*)

(No. 298.) *Constantinople, April 4, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of despatches, upon matters of interest in their respective districts, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls and Vice-Consuls at Larissa, Diabekir, Saloniea, and Bourgas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 382.

Major Trotter to Sir A. H. Layard.

Diarbekir, March 10, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report my return to Diarbekir on the 7th instant from a tour in the districts, which has occupied rather more than three weeks, most of which time has been spent in the Mardin Saudjak. I am preparing a special Report on the state of the country visited by me, which I hope to have ready in a few days' time.

During my absence great changes have taken place in the personnel of the Administration of the vilayet. Abdul Rahman Pasha, the Vali, has been appointed to Bagdad, where he has already taken over charge. He has been replaced here by Izzet Pasha, the late Isslahat Memur.

Said Pasha, the late acting Mutessarif of Mardin (and who has recently been on special duty with Izzet Pasha), of whom I have had occasion to write most favourably in former despatches, has been nominated Mutessarif of Sert, and leaves in three days to take up his appointment. He is a well-informed and enlightened man, and has earned for himself a reputation for fairness and integrity in every appointment he has held. If a few more Governors of his calibre could be found, and appointed to other districts, there might be some hope for the regeneration of the country.

Another appointment, that of Said Effendi to be Kaimakam of Djezireh, is by no means so satisfactory. There is no doubt but that he is an able and energetic Administrator—a matter of considerable importance at the present time—but it is equally certain that he is one of the most corrupt officials in the country. He was previously Kaimakam of Djezireh, under Vali Ahmet Tewfik Pasha, the predecessor of Abdul Rahman Pasha, and the most openly corrupt man that has ever reigned in Diarbekir. During his incumbency he is said to have been paid annually 500 liras by Said Effendi, who, in addition, amassed very considerable wealth during the years that he held office at Djezireh. He was removed from employ by Abdul Rahman Pasha, but has recently been on special duty in connection with the recent Kurdish rebellion.

The city of Diarbekir is internally somewhat more quiet than when I left it, and one of the first acts of the new Vali, who arrived here only a few days ago, has been to nominate a Special Commission to inquire into and suppress the extensive and well-organized system of night robbery, the existence of which I reported in my despatch of the 6th February. The Commission is well selected, three of the most influential and respectable Christians of the city, with three Mahommedan colleagues of influence and good repute. The Commission was nominated on the 8th instant and commenced work on the 9th, and by the evening of the same day two non-commissioned officers of police and several other people had been arrested; praiseworthy prompt action such as is not often seen in this country.

Izzet Pasha brought with him from Djezireh as prisoners twenty-six Kurdish notables implicated in the late rebellion; they are in prison here, and I understand that instructions concerning them are being awaited from Constantinople.

His Excellency the Pasha paid me a visit yesterday, and told me that he was perfectly convinced that the only remedy for the existing state of things in Kurdistan is the banishment of the principal Aghas and Chiefs. I have so often urged this view on Her Majesty's Government, that it is satisfactory to find that the same opinion was held both by the late and present Vali Pashas. It is earnestly to be hoped that the same view may be held and acted on at Constantinople. It is not necessary that all should go, but a judicious selection of those most deserving of such a fate might easily made by those conversant with the actual state of affairs.

It is reported here by telegraph that Yusuf Pasha and Costaki Pasha have been nominated Commissioners for reforms in the Aleppo and Diarbekir Vilayets. Unfortunately these Commissions and Commissioners generally end in doing nothing. Ali Shefik Bey, who was originally nominated Isslahat Memur (Reform Commissioner) for Kurdistan, and who, it is said, bungled matters terribly in Dersim, has recently returned to the capital without even visiting these parts. Izzet Pasha, who was specially appointed as Commissioner for the suppression of the Bohtan rebellion, which was quelled before his arrival, did, it is true, induce Osman and Hussein Beys to surrender themselves; and I understand that these Chiefs have, since arrival at Constantinople, where they expected to be received with honours, been thrown into prison. He has also brought twenty-six prisoners here, but twelve of the most influential rebel Chiefs, who had been arrested through the energy of Said Pasha, at Djezireh, managed to make their escape from prison the night following their transfer from Said Pasha's custody to that of Izzet Pasha. Ill-natured people say that these twelve men were wealthy, and that Izzet Pasha has returned 2,000*l.* richer for the transaction, but I should be sorry to indorse the accusation without further evidence; I do not myself believe in it, but undoubtedly the men are now at large, and, as far as I know, no endeavour is at present being made to recapture them.

The Chaldean Bishop called on me yesterday, and told me that since the departure of Izzet Pasha from Djezireh, a shop there, in the immediate vicinity of a soldiers' guard-house, had been burglariously opened, and 17,000 piastres had been abstracted. It was almost certain that the act had been committed by the soldiers themselves, but no redress could be obtained. His informant concluded his letter with the expression, "Would to God the Pashas and reformers and military had never come. I fear our last state will be worse than the first." His informant, however, was smarting under the loss of his

piastres, and if the Chiefs who are now here in prison be permanently prevented from returning, good will undoubtedly accrue.

Two instances have recently come to my personal knowledge, showing the benefits to be derived from the expatriation of the local Aghas. In my despatch No. 1 of the 5th January, to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, I stated that Abdul Rahman Pasha had quite recently summoned to Diarbekir, to answer for their misdeeds, two Aghas from Haïni (two days north of Diarbekir), named Ali and Ahmed. These men have been detained here ever since, and from the date of their departure from Haïni up to the present time, the most perfect tranquillity has reigned there in lieu of disorder and anarchy, and the Protestant pastor, who two months ago wrote to me that he dared not leave his house to come to Diarbekir, called on me to-day to express his gratitude at the improved position of affairs, which he attributed in great measure to my interference.

Again, at Deyriki, a mixed Mahommedan and Christian village about 40 miles south of Diarbekir, I learned that the Christians (of whom the village contains 100 houses) had been suffering terribly from the tyranny of five local Aghas. Robberies and assaults in the streets were of almost daily occurrence. Some five months ago these Aghas were all summoned to Diarbekir to answer some special charge. For two months they were kept in prison, but some six weeks ago they were released and restored to their homes. During the three and a half months they had been absent, not a single burglary had occurred in the village, but in the six weeks that have elapsed since their return four shops and eight dwelling-houses—all belonging to Christians—have been broken into and robbed, the first burglary of the series occurring on the night following the return of the Aghas. The special steps which I took with regard to these Aghas will appear in the narrative of my recent tour.

March 13th.—Since the above was written I have seen several letters from Sert written by one of the members of the Appeal Court at Diarbekir—a Protestant Armenian —late on special deputation with the late Vali and Izzet Pasha. They are addressed to Mr. Cuming, an English merchant of this city. I append a French translation of one of them. From the general tenour of the others it appears that what little good was being done was the act of the late Vali, Abdul Rahman Pasha. If the statements described in the letter attached are true—and I have every reason to believe in the credibility of the writer—it would appear that the presence of the Special Commissioners, and the large bodies of soldiery, have but little effect in restraining the Aghas from their misdeeds, while the soldiers themselves, ill-paid, ill-fed, and ill-disciplined, are, as I prognosticated they would in an earlier despatch, only adding to the load of misery under which the country is groaning.

I have now seen Izzet Pasha twice since my return to Diarbekir, and it is apparently his cue to leave the responsibility of settling matters to the High Commissioners now said to be on their way from Constantinople. Commissions have hitherto ended in smoke, and as the present is appointed for Aleppo Vilayet as well as Diarbekir, it is possible that months will be spent—I will not say wasted—in Aleppo, before any one thinks of coming on here.

I am not in the position, which your Excellency probably is, of knowing the comparative wants of the Aleppo and Diarbekir Vilayets, but I would beg to urge on your Excellency the urgent necessity for the presence in this vilayet of some able, upright, and honest official, with full powers, and pluck to use them.

The report on my recent journey, which chiefly treats of the Midyad district, south-west of Sert, will open the eyes of Her Majesty's Government to the anarchy that has existed during the past year in one district, which is, I fear, but a type of many others.

On my urging the Vali Pasha yesterday to send an additional police force to a certain district, he informed me that there would soon be no police left, as they were all returning to their homes, unable and unwilling to keep up any longer the sham of existing on 70 piastres caïmé per mensem, twelve months in arrears.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 382.

Extract from a Letter from Seërte.

(Traduction.)

Monsieur, *Le 3e Février*, 1879.

QUANT aux nouvelles locales, comme je vous avais fait pressentir dans ma précédente, ce que vous aviez dû répéter à M. le Major Trotter, que les procédés admis en haut lieu ne peuvent pas remédier à nos maux invétérés; qu'il faut, au contraire, recourir aux mesures tranchantes: c'est là pendaison ou le jugement sommaire de tous les tyrans accusés que doit tranquilliser ou mettre en sécurité le peuple en général et les Chrétiens en particulier. Nous voulons dire tous ces Beys Kurdes ne craignant ni le cachot ni le Gouvernement Impérial; à notre avis, il faut au moins expatrier en masse toutes les familles prévenues, Agha et Beys, qui se trouvent à Bohtan, Warzan, Redwan avec leurs complices dans la ville même de Seërte. Nous pensons qu'il faut aussi sévèrement réprimer les auteurs de prévarications, comme il ne s'en trouvent pas mal ici—certains officiers supérieurs de l'armée régulière et de la police.

On a commis ici des crimes inouïs qu'un honnête homme ne peut pas concevoir: vous en savez plus que moi: je vais vous en donner une bonne, qui est le chef-d'œuvre d'insolence. Un Chef Kurde, Notable de la ville de Charnak, dépendant de notre sandjak, a fait enlever, ces derniers jours, pendant la nuit, la fille d'un membre Arménien du Conseil Municipal: il se l'est marié de par le droit de force brutale, *ab uno disce omnes*.

Les pauvres Chrétiens sont traités comme le bétail; ils sont privés de la possession de leurs biens et de leurs personnes.

Ce jour-ci leurs Excellences les Pachas Kiazim et Izzette sont partis pour Djézirèh: leur présence ici a fait évanouir l'espoir d'un remède radical; les accusés de Bohtan qu'elles avaient fait emprisonner n'ont pas été relâchés que grâce aux remontrances de notre Vali Abdul Rahman Pacha. Dites tout cela à M. le Consul, et s'il peut faire quelque chose pour les pauvres Chrétiens qu'il ne tarde pas de le faire, pour l'amour de Dieu!

Inclosure 3 in No. 382.

Major Trotter to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Diarbekir, March* 16, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to submit a narrative Report on a recent tour through the southern portion of the Diarbekir Vilayet. My authority for making the journey is contained in a telegram of Sir Henry Layard's of the 19th January.

Various reasons combined to make it desirable that Mardin should be selected as the first point to visit. It is a large town lying 54 miles south-east of Diarbekir, and is the seat of Government of one of the four sandjaks, viz., Diarbekir, Mahtia, Sert, and Mardin, into which this vilayet is divided. The principal object of my visit was to endeavour to bring to a satisfactory conclusion the litigation which has been proceeding for some weeks past *in re* the assault on the American mission-house at Midyad. As, however, I have fully reported on this subject in separate despatches, I need not here make any further allusion to it.

I left Diarbekir on Wednesday, the 12th February, in company with M. Pons, the French Consular Agent, who was about to visit some poplar plantations belonging to him in the neighbourhood of Mardin. Our first day's march was a short one of five hours (15 miles) to Guzel Shahr, lying 3 miles south of Schukerli (κ),* a small Kurdish village of fifteen houses, belonging to one of my Diarbekir acquaintances, a certain Moussi Pasha, a Tartar exile from Russia, who boasts of being directly descended from Genghis Khan. In his small and primitive but hospitable mansion we passed the night, he having turned his harem out of his only decent room in order to provide accommodation for our party. I was myself suffering for the first two days from a slight attack of fever, contracted in Diarbekir, but by the third day the change of air and scene had entirely driven it away.

Our second day's march was 23 miles to Bernischt (κ), a large village

* For convenience of reference I have appended the letter (κ) to all places in this Report whose names are to be found in Kiepert's large map.

picturesquely situated at the foot of vine-covered hills, and on the banks of a mountain stream. Is was here that M. Pons had his poplar plantations, so I left him and proceeded on the third day to Mardin (K), a distance of 16 miles in a south-easterly direction.

The road I had taken from Diarbekir was a somewhat circuitous one. It left the direct made road on the first day's march, and, running to the north of it, and nearly parallel to it, joined it again at 2 miles from Mardin. The position of Bernischt on Kiepert's map is altogether wrong. It should be to the north-east of the main road. This made road was the work of a former Vali Ismail Pasha (now Governor-General of Erzeroum) some eight or nine years ago, and although not what I should call a first-class highway, it is 24 feet in width, and might with a small expenditure of labour be made available for carts throughout its length. It follows the line of what was probably an old Roman road, as two streams near Diarbekir are crossed by excellent stone bridges still in excellent preservation. The latter half of the road is unbridged, and near Kharniki (K) is a formidable stream, where in wet weather caravans are often detained some days. In its present state the roadway consists generally of large rough uncovered stones, and, except in very rainy weather, caravans prefer following a track of their own by the roadside. In this province beasts of burthen are exclusively employed, and no such article as a cart is to be found in the country.

The road which I followed, after passing for a few miles along the banks of the Tigris, traverses for some 20 miles an undulating plain, about 2,000 feet above sea-level, stony, but all either cultivated or capable of being so. Wheat and barley are the principal crops. Villages are neither numerous nor large, and a great quantity of the ground lies waste. The land could doubtless support a much larger population than at present exists. The inhabitants are almost exclusively Kurdish. Half way between the two cities the country becomes more hilly, and the road passes over a succession of ups and downs, the ups preponderating until the road at last reaches a height of 4,000 feet above sea-level at the point where the southern edge of the mountain mass is reached, and where the traveller suddenly finds himself looking down on the vast Mesopotamian plain, which stretches away further than the eye can reach, and at a level of 2,000 feet below the pass. Before reaching this point some well-watered valleys are crossed and ascended. The villages look thriving, the hill-sides being covered with vines, and the beds of the valleys with poplar plantations.

As I was suffering from fever on this early portion of my tour, I was unable to do much in the way of making inquiries as to the state of the population, but the country was outwardly quiet, and I saw nothing to justify the assertions of Diarbekir merchants and others that the roads are unsafe. It must not be supposed, however, that because an Englishman, travelling with zaptiehs and well-armed attendants, and the prestige attaching to the British Consul, meets with no exciting adventures by the road, that peaceful traders coming before or after need necessarily have the same experiences; on the contrary, the parties of armed villagers that I met, though profoundly respectful to myself, would perhaps not hesitate to attack and plunder ill-protected traders; and although perhaps the risk to individual travellers need not be very great, yet, sooner than run the chance of losing life or property, they naturally prefer to stay at home, and trade languishes and suffers in consequence. Confidence cannot be restored until the introduction of an efficient police force and a system akin to that which exists in India on all important routes, where small parties of police, under efficient supervision, are quartered in guard-houses at regular intervals along the roads.

At Bernischt (K), a village of 150 houses, where I spent one night, great complaints were made against the late acting Kaimakam of Tujian, a large village 3 miles south of Bernischt, and the head-quarters of the kaza. *Inter alia* he was accused of protecting robbers and burglars, and of having released some notorious offenders, not once, but thrice, on payment of handsome douceurs. When I first came to Turkey in Asia I used not to believe such stories, but now, alas! the evidence comes not from one place but from several, and I am constrained to believe that such acts are of frequent occurrence throughout the country.

I took some pains to inquire to what extent this part of the country had suffered during the war. The principal losses have been from the drain of men. From one village out of sixty houses thirty men had gone to the army during the past five years, and only two had returned. In another village of thirty houses one man had been taken from nearly every house. Much rascality took place on the part of the officials and the local Aghas in regard to the drawing by lot for military service, and the unfortunate rayahs were often deprived first of their cash and then of their liberty. Much loss also was incurred in draught animals impressed to carry provisions for the army at inclement seasons. Out of a lot of 500 mules and ponies taken from the Tujian district to take

grain towards Erzeroum, I was assured that 100 only had returned, the remainder having perished of cold or hunger.

On the 14th February I entered Mardin, a large and picturesque city situated near the top of a vast, bold, isolated mountain mass, but at the foot of an almost perpendicular wall of rock, on the summit of which, some 500 feet above the city, stand the well-preserved and extensive ruins of an ancient castle, formerly famous for its siege by Tamerlane. To reach the town from the mountains I had been traversing a steep rapid descent of 1,500 feet had to be made, and after a few miles of stony road over undulating ground an ascent of an equal amount brought me to the hospitable houses of the American missionaries, who, together with a party of some fifty horsemen of numerous creeds and languages, had issued a distance of some miles from the city to meet me and escort me into it.

I remained at Mardin for four days, during which time I was visited by the Governor (Mutessarif) and most of the officials, as well as the heads of the religious communities and the notables of the town, both Moslems and Christians. These visits take up a great deal of time in this country, as well as the return visits, which are generally considered indispensable, although I sometimes avail myself of a traveller's privilege of not returning them. For the first two days I had an almost interminable levée of people coming to see me, some out of compliment, others out of curiosity, others with petitions and requests of every imaginable kind. *Inter alia* I was requested by some discontented members of the Jacobite church to exercise my influence with the Bishop of Jerusalem to induce him to send an emissary to Mardin to receive them into his fold. Catholic Armenians of one sect wanted to recover possession of their churches from the other sect. People who had been robbed years ago wanted me to obtain a restoration of their property. In fact I had applications sufficient to have detained me a year in Mardin had I wished to occupy myself with such matters.

Of course out of hurried visits from such a heterogeneous mass of humanity it is difficult to carry away very clear ideas on anything, but one thing struck me, a fact for which I had been previously prepared, that the Moslems and Christians of Mardin, especially amongst the wealthier classes, are on much more equal and friendly terms than in any other place that I have visited in the interior of Turkey in Asia. Diarbekir, not far off, has always, I believe with justice, been regarded as one of the most fanatical cities in Asia.

Two reasons have been given me for the existence of a more friendly feeling at Mardin between the two races than elsewhere: 1. The town is not, as is usual in Turkish cities, divided into separate Moslem and Christian quarters; on the contrary, both classes are dispersed promiscuously over the city. 2. There are a great many wealthy Mahommedans who, in preference to trading themselves, hand over their capital to their Christian neighbours, who work the money for them and keep half the profits. The Moslems thus have a direct interest in the well-being of the Christians. This feeling does not apparently extend to the lower classes, for I learned that in the great demand for water, which now exists on account of the drought, the Christians have always to wait their turn at the city wells until their Mahommedan neighbours have first been satisfied.

The city of Mardin probably contains from 16,000 to 18,000 inhabitants. The official returns give a population of 7,930; but the Turks don't regard the women as of any account, and leave them out of the reckoning altogether. Supposing males and females to be equal in number, this return gives a total of very nearly 16,000 inhabitants. Another estimate I obtained of 3,650 houses, which, at 5 individuals per house, gives a total of 18,250 inhabitants. These 3,650 houses are subdivided as follows:—

Mahommedans, 2,000, mostly Kurds.

Christians: Catholic Armenians, 700; Catholic Syrians, 200; Catholic Chaldeans, 80; Jacobites, 600; Protestants, 70. Total, 1,650.

The languages spoken in Mardin are principally Arabic and Kurdish. Turkish is but little used, and Armenian is unknown. The Catholic Armenians, who are mostly Hassounists, are all brought up to speak Arabic.

The city of Mardin appears to have suffered less during the war than many other towns in the vicinity, the comparative good feeling existing between Christians and Mahommedans has doubtless had its influence in bringing this about.

The accounts I heard while at Mardin of the sad state of anarchy that has existed during the past year in some of the neighbouring districts, more especially in that of Midyad to the north-east, made me determine to visit that district and make inquiries on the spot, instead of proceeding, as I had originally intended, to Rasul-Ain (K), the Circassian Settlement on the Khabour River, in Northern Mesopotamia.

Captain Cameron, C.B., R.N., had met me by appointment at Mardin, and I accompanied him thence for his first two days' journey through the desert to Nisibin (K). Dr. Thorn, of the American Mission, was also of our party, and the latter gentleman kindly accompanied me in my subsequent march through the Midyad district

Captain Cameron had visited Ras-ul-Ain on his way to Mardin, and estimated the present population of the Circassian Settlement there at 500 souls. I think, however, that he has under-estimated, as other fairly reliable accounts give 500 as the number of families now existing there—a sad remnant of the 18,000 emigrants who flocked there from Russia some twelve years ago, and whose numbers have thus been thinned by war, pestilence, and famine. These men are regular Ishmaelites—their hand against every man and every man's hand against them. They are still at bitter enmity with the surrounding Arabs, by whom, they stated, no less than 100 of their number had been killed during the past year. I have since heard that this was no exaggeration, but they were generally killed in fair fight, having espoused the cause of one tribe of Arabs against another more powerful. On one occasion their allies were defeated, and fled on their well-bred mares, but the Circassians being badly mounted were soon overtaken, and sixty of their number cut to pieces. Many of the Circassians have been, and still are, employed as zaptiehs, but they have made so many enemies that they are of but little use in that capacity. When I was at Nisibin I was told by the authorities that they could not be sent as escort with Captain Cameron through the desert, as they would inevitably be killed by the Arabs. I was also told that they could not be sent with me into the Kurdish mountains, or they would be killed by the Kurds. On the plains, too, at the foot of the hills, they are execrated and feared, and I imagine it will not be many years before they disappear altogether from the face of the earth, unless, indeed, the beneficent endeavours of Her Majesty's Government to secure peace and prosperity to the land be happily crowned with success at an early date.

I should mention that Ras-ul-Ain is not in the Diarbekir, but is in the Aleppo Vilayet. It is governed by a Turkish Kaïmakam, who takes his orders from the Governor of the Dergor Sandjak, which lies between the Rivers Khabur and Euphrates. The colony is popularly supposed to live principally upon plundering, the Kaïmakam being generally silenced by the temporary possession in his harem of some of the Circassian ladies.

The caravan road passing through the desert to the north of Ras-ul-Ain, as well as the road between Diarbekir and Mardin, are often visited by these worthies in search of plunder.

Captain Cameron informs me that the Circassians have but little cultivated ground round their village, which is well and neatly built, and surrounded by a strong wall for protection from Arabs. The men are poorly armed, but take the greatest possible care of their weapons, on which so much depends. Fortunately for them they are better armed than the Arabs, who have little else to depend on than their spears.

Our party left Mardin on the 19th February about noon. We were escorted for the first few miles out of the city by several of the ladies and gentlemen of the American Mission. The missionaries reside just outside the town, on a spur of the Mardin hill, which commands a magnificent view of the great Mesopotamian plain to the south. One prominent hill rises above the horizon, the Tell Kukarb (K), and although it looks apparently within a ride, it is in reality 70 miles off as the crow flies. The ranges of mountains, about the same distance off, bound the horizon to the east and west of Kukarb; one of them, the Sinjar Mountains (K), is principally inhabited by Yezidis or Devil Worshippers. The other, the Abdul-Aziz range, is the spring abode of pastoral Arabs. Various "tells" or mounds scattered here and there over the vast intervening plain mark, probably, the sites of cities, destroyed, as I have heard it plausibly suggested, at the time of the Great Deluge.

I am informed that, as a rule, by the end of February the plain is covered with one mass of verdure, broken only by the bright patches of wild flowers, but this year the plain is all parched and dried up, owing to an almost entire failure of rain during the past few months. Rain fell subsequently, on my return to Mardin, but much more is wanted, or there is danger of an entire failure of crops.

I found the whole of the country visited during my recent tour suffering from want of water. At Mardin the inhabitants are principally supplied from large reservoirs of rain-water; most of these were dry at the period of my visit, and water was being sold, a most rare and unusual occurrence. At Midyad (K), where the rain-water is also stored in tanks, water was being carried to the town from a distance of one hour, and I was informed that if rain did not shortly fall the whole of the inhabitants would have to migrate *en masse*, either to the neighbourhood of the Tigris or to the head waters of the Nisibin

stream, both places a good day's journey from the town. Midyad is certainly one of the driest districts I have ever been in, and although Kiepert's maps show some streams, I failed to detect any water in them.

Even, however, should the rains fail, although there will doubtless be a great rise in prices, and much consequent distress, there need not necessarily be a famine. I believe there are very large stores of grain in the Diarbekir district, the surplus produce of former abundant harvests, which the owners have kept in store, and which they yet hope to dispose of at profitable rates. A considerable amount of grain has been exported from Diarbekir to Djezireh (K) by raft during the past week.

To continue:

Our road to Dara (K) lay for the first 1¼ miles through the long and somewhat straggling city of Mardin (3,500 feet above sea-level), and then rapidly descended, a fall of some 1,500 feet, into the plain. A march of 18 miles in a south-easterly direction over undulating dry and stony ground, during which we passed but one village only, brought us to Dara, our halting place for the night, a village of 50 houses, 40 of which were Mahommedan (Kurdish), and the remainder Armenian Catholics.

Dara was once upon a time a very large and flourishing city, and, according to local tradition, was founded by Darius. A very large area is now covered with masses of ruins, stupendous blocks of stone, fragments of arches, &c., in the midst of which the present village stands. Some old limestone quarries, just outside the old city, are spotted over with apertures, leading to caves in the rocks, which at one period or another have evidently served as human habitations. Amongst the best preserved ruins of the city are some larged arched reservoirs for water, a large tank, and an enormous vaulted underground building, which tradition asserts to have been a prison, but which was more probably a granary or store-house. It has an interior elevation of about 60 feet, and is some 30 yards square at base. There are several well-built masonry pillars in the interior, supporting a vaulted roof, which is raised some 10 feet above the surface of the surrounding country, and is girt by a handsome but plain stone cornice. It is possible that this roof once supported a palace. It is very massive and solidly built. The inhabitants of Dara, who looked miserably poor and ill clothed, crowded round us with old copper coins for sale, mostly Cufic, but very indistinct and in bad preservation.

We all slept in a large room, in the only decent-looking house in the place; it belonged to the local Agha, who is also Kahiye or Mayor.

Our next day's march was to Nisibin (K), distant 15 miles from Dara. Our road ran in a south-easterly direction, over the parched and dried-up level plain. We passed two or three small Kurdish villages, and on stopping to converse with the people heard the old, old stories of insecurity and oppression. The roads were declared to be so unsafe that the villagers would not even venture into Mardin in parties of two and three. The people complained loudly, but in general terms, against the authorities; but on being asked to go into particulars, declined to do so unless we would guarantee that the guilty should be punished, and that they, the complainants, should be sheltered from subsequent revenge—a guarantee it was manifestly not in my power to give.

Nisibin, the ancient Nisibis, is a place renowned in ancient history; but as the houses there were built of bricks, no vestiges of its former greatness remain. It has the reputation of being the most unhealthy place in the desert, and an appointment to office there is considered as equivalent to receiving a death-warrant.

We put up on arrival at the house of the Cadi (or Judge), but before we had been many hours there we learned that there was a terrible epidemic raging in the village—a kind of sweating typhus of a most virulent kind. The disease broke out about a month before our visit, but there had been, up to within a fortnight, only a few isolated cases. In the last two weeks, however, out of a total police force of sixty men, one officer and nine zaptiehs had succumbed.* About forty of the villagers (men) had died during the same period. Not a single person attacked had hitherto recovered. The illness commences with violent fever and great pain in the bowels; after about six hours the eyes glare as if they would start out of the head. Death generally takes place between twenty-four and thirty hours after the first appearance of the disease, unless a sweating fit occurs. If this comes on within the first twenty-four hours, the patient rallies, and lingers on for from six to eight days, when another sweat breaks out and he finally succumbs. After death a large black discolouration appears on the skin, either in the region of the spleen or on the left shoulder. There is no breaking of the skin, and nothing like a boil or boils, or I should have thought it was the plague. These details were given us by the Captain of Police, who was quietly sitting in the room with us, and

* 18 per cent. of police force dead in a fortnight.

who looked ghastly ill himself, and we shortly afterwards learned that he had but a few hours before been performing the last duties for his own subordinate, the Lieutenant of Police, who had died of the malady that same day. We would have moved at once to another village, but it was late when we learned these details, and we were told that two of the nearest villages were infected also. Most fortunately Captain Cameron had a tent, and plenty of carbolic acid, so we at once departed from the Cadi's house and took up our quarters in the tent, where we slept five of us together, and it is to be hoped no evil results will ensue.

We could but pity the poor wretches exposed to this terrible pestilence. They had no doctors and no medicines, and the Kaïmakam had not even reported the existence of the malady to his superiors at Mardin. We told him that he should at once do so, and we also recommended certain hygienic measures, such as keeping the sick in a separate house, &c.

I was glad to learn, on return to Mardin several days later on, that when Izzet Pasha passed through Nisibin on his way from Djezireh to Mardin, that the disease was abating, and had not spread beyond the three villages to which it was confined at the time of my visit, all of which were on the same stream.

Nisibin is a kaza of the Mardin Sandjak. It contains about 450 houses, of which 350 belong to the Moslems, both Kurds and Arabs; 70 houses to Jews—a colony that was expelled many years ago from Mardin; and there are also about 50 houses of Syrian Jacobites.

In the district there are 145 villages,* containing 2,712 Mahommedan, 125 Christian, and 400 Yezidis' houses. The Yezidis reside principally in the Sinjar Mountains, in the Mesopotamian desert.

While at Mardin I was presented with a petition from Nisibin, a translation of which is sent with this Report. The circumstances narrated therein are somewhat exaggerated; but it is admitted by all parties concerned that, a few days prior to my arrival, some Kurdish strangers from the mountains to the north instigated and headed an assault made on the Christian quarter of the town by a large body of the Kurdish population. Their object was to seize and forcibly convert to Mahommedanism a Christian woman, the wife of a renegade. They carried her off after a struggle, and would doubtless have succeeded in their purpose, but fortunately the Kaïmakam and the Cadi appeared on the scene, and by their active and energetic interference rescued the woman and returned her to her Christian protectors before any great harm was done. At the time of my visit she was acknowledged by the Christians whom I called to inquire into the case to be in safe keeping, and, on the other hand, six or seven of the rioters were in custody. The Kurds from the mountains who had organized the attack had escaped.†

The incident shows, however,‡ to what treatment the scattered Christian population is subject, and it is, I fancy, a very rare occurrence for the officials to act so promptly and energetically as they appear to have done in the present instance.

Another incident at Nisibin gives an idea as to the state of the country. While talking to the Kaïmakam in the Cadi's house, an extremely tall, handsome, young, but somewhat morose-looking Arab entered, salaamed, and sat down. I was informed that he was the newly-elected Chief of the Jai Arabs, a tribe numbering about 1,000 tents, which dwells in the desert south of Nisibin. His uncle, the late Chief, had recently robbed some Kochar (nomadic) Kurds near Djezireh of 7,000 head of sheep. He had in consequence been attacked by Government troops, and imprisoned, and the youth before us had been elected Chief in his stead. He had just brought in 250 head of sheep, which was probably all that would be recovered. I may add that since my return to Mardin I heard that the Nisibin Kaïmakam had been dismissed for taking a large bribe to connive at the escape of the old Sheikh, making, if I am correctly informed, the eighth change of Kaïmakam in Nisibin during the past two years.

On the morning of the 21st February our party separated, Captain Cameron continuing his way across the desert to Mosul (K), while I struck off due north over the hills to Midyad (K).

Before we separated we were witnesses of a free fight among the Kurdish villagers. It was a quarrel over some sheep, and about two dozen of the Kurds, men and women,

* According to a former report of Mr. Consul Taylor; but I think the number of Christian houses has been under-estimated.—H. T.

† According to the inclosure, the leader of these Kurds was the Sheikh Djellaleddin, the leader in the great massacre of Christians at Bayazid during the war. I am assured, however, on the best authority (Said Pasha, who was Mutessarif of Mush during the war), that that monster died more than a year ago, and that the leader in the present case, who certainly did give himself out as Djellaleddin, was an imposter.

‡ *Vide* Inclosure.

were laying on to each others' heads and shoulders with the stoutest of staves with a zest and spirit that I feel sure could not be eclipsed at Donnybrook Fair. The ladies were the most violent of the crowd. The row was within 100 yards of our tent, and officials were quietly walking about not taking the slightest notice of it. It was evidently an every-day occurrence.

The mail being about to leave I must defer the account of the remainder of my journey for another despatch. I will, however, before concluding this, give a few extracts from a letter received by me from Captain Cameron, C.B., as to the state of the country at Aznaor (K), one day's march east of Nisibin. He writes as follows:—

"This village (Aznaor) is the centre of a district containing ten villages of Syrian Jacobites. Within the last year ten other Christian villages have been destroyed and robbed by soldiers, zaptiehs, and Kurds, and in this village fifty or sixty houses have been destroyed within about two months. Part of the latter destruction was done by zaptiehs and part by the Kurds. For the last forty days the Sheikh has been wishing to go to Nisibin to complain to the Medjliss, but has been deterred by the threats of the surrounding Kurds to the effect that they would kill him if he went there and said anything against them.

"Five battalions passed by here on their way to Djezireh for the Kurdish revolt, and they took sheep, bread, &c., and paid scarcely anything. Being on a frequented road, soldiers and zaptiehs often pass by here, and always take more or less from the inhabitants. . . . . All hands in the place are complaining of being robbed and ruined. Since the war it has been worse than ever it was before. The feeling of insecurity which is general everywhere seems intensified here." He adds, "No sickness on this line of country: it is confined to the villages on the Nisibin stream."

I shall hope to conclude this Report in my next despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 4 in No. 382.

Petition from Nisibin.

(Traduction.)

Vénérable Vicaire, *Nisibine, le 15 Février*, 1879.

C'EST les larmes aux yeux que les Soussignés venons vous soumettre la présente supplique qui relate nos récentes souffrances à la suite des méfaits que nous avons subis par les instigations d'un renégat; nous sommes désolés et venons d'être pillés et affreusement molestés par les Kurdes du Chéik Djélaleddine.

Voici les motifs de ces tortures:—

Un peu avant le commencement de la présente guerre, le nommé Hadji Chamo, du village Batine et appartenant à l'Eglise Syrienne, se rend et accomplit chez le susdit Chéik, très-célèbre depuis par le massacre des Arméniens de Baïazid lors de la reprise du fort par les Ottomans, sa conversion à l'Islamisme.

Quant à sa famille, composée d'une épouse et d'un enfant, elle résidait naturellement chez ses coreligionnaires à Nisibine. Depuis sa séparation le renégat Chamo couvait de terribles projets pour posséder sa famille et se venger de ses conseillers; à cet effet, vers les premiers jours de la présente année, il se présente, par le conseil de Chéik Djélaleddine, à Nisibine, pour convertir et posséder par menace son épouse. La Chrétienne, par une conviction digne d'un martyr, résiste à toutes ses avances et veut rester fidèle à sa réligion. Le protecteur de l'apostat informé de cette résistance recourut à l'enlèvement forcé.

Vers le milieu de Janvier les Syriens de Nisibine furent surpris par l'invasion des Kurdes farouches et d'une armée des fanatiques commandés par Hadji Abdoullah, maître d'hôte) du Chéik Djélaleddin, l'asile de la malheureuse, la maison Mourad, avec d'autres, fut pillée en règle. Nous sommes tellement terrifiés que nous ne savons pas au juste l'évaluation de nos pertes. L'enlevée, incarcérée dans le harem du maître d'hôtel, on envahit le quartier et le couvent Mar-Yacoub. Une bastonnade impitoyable administrée sans relâche aux moines et au peuple fut une punition à titre de vengeance de ce qu'ils avaient conseillé à l'épouse du renégat de rester fidèle au culte de Jésus. Bon nombre des molestés gardent le lit au risque de faire mourir leurs enfants sans pain. Si nous n'avons pas été massacré, c'est grâce à la modération calculée du Caïmacam et du Cadi dans le but d'éluder une sérieuse responsabilité ultérieur. Une requête adressée aux autorités locales fut le seul recours légal pour nous plaindre contre ces atrocités.

Le Caïmacam, dissimulant de nous faire justice, fit emprisonner les agresseurs seulement pour quelques jours, la plupart déjà relâchée, quelques-uns libres sans aucune caution, les plus insignifiants des délinquants seuls sont gardés à vue pour donner une apparence légale à l'exécution de nos plaintes irrécusables; nous sommes convaincus qu'eux aussi seront prochainement relâchés.

L'indulgence de nos autorités envers les coupables paraît très-évidente; on doit sous-entendre qu'elles ont déjà tramé tous les subterfuges légaux pour disculper les coupables.

Voilà, vénérable Père, la situation malheureuse où nous sommes par l'impunité et l'insolence future de nos agresseurs. Ces malheurs auxquels vous avez assisté vous-même, ayez donc la bonté de les décrire par dépêche télégraphique à notre Patriarche et à la Sublime Porte: assurez donc notre avenir plein d'orage; nous répondons de toutes les dépenses qui mettront un terme à nos souffrances. Notre crainte d'une extermination radicale de la part des Kurdes nous oblige déjà de garder nos logis au risque de laisser nos enfants sans pain et l'Etat sans impôts. Un envoi tardif de la présente pétition à qui de droit sera une perte de temps irréparable.

Dans cet espoir surtout, agréez, digne et vénérable Vicaire, le gage d'hommages respectueux des Soussignés.

(Suivent les quinze signatures.)

Inclosure 5 in No. 382.

Major Trotter to Mr. Malet.

Diarbekir, March 14, 1879.

Sir,

IN continuation of my despatch of the 18th February, from Mardin, on the subject of the Midyad assault case, I have the honour to state that, on my return to Mardin from the Midyad district, I called, on the 28th February, on the new Vali, Izzet Pasha, who had just arrived from Sert, and asked him whether he had received the copy of the protest (appended to despatch of the 18th February) which had been sent by post to the address of the late Vali at Diarbekir. He replied that he had not, whereupon I handed him a fresh copy that I had had prepared. At this moment the Mutessarif of Mardin, to whom the original protest had been addressed, entered the room, and I took advantage of his presence to discuss the whole matter with his Excellency Izzet Pasha. The Mutessarif admitted that there had been an assault on the premises, and said that, in consequence of my representations, a special Commissioner, a certain Daniel Effendi, a Christian member of the Mardin Medjliss, had now been directed to proceed to Midyad to make a fresh special inquiry into the case. The prisoners had already returned there some days previously, and, in the absence of authentic intelligence, the Protestant community there erroneously assumed that the case had been finished, and the accused parties acquitted without any notice having been taken of my protest. They were much annoyed accordingly, as I learn by letters since received from them, but without good reason.

I now have the honour to inclose a translation of a letter received by me this day from the Mutessarif of Mardin, being his official reply to my protest of the 18th February, made in the name of his Excellency the American Minister. I shall be grateful if you will kindly furnish a copy of the Mutessarif's reply to his Excellency.

I am, myself, of opinion that the reply of the Mutessarif is satisfactory, and there is every reason to hope that justice may yet be done in the matter, without any further reference to Constantinople.

I my add that when Daniel Effendi's name was mentioned by the Mutessarif, Izzet Pasha turned to the Protestant Vakil, and asked whether he was satisfied with the person selected. He replied in the affirmative. I will not fail to let your Excellency know the final upshot of this affair.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 6 in No. 382.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Malet.

Larissa, March 19, 1879.

Sir,

HAVING been told that the inhabitants of the sub-district of Ayia in this province complained of the misconduct of the Turkish troops stationed there, and accused some

soldiers of having beaten and tortured two villagers suspected of harbouring brigands, I called the attention of the Commander-in-chief to the matter, when he promised me to make inquiries with a view to discover and punish the guilty parties.

I also brought under his notice a complaint from the peasants of Skamnia, a village on Mount Olympus, relative to the officer of a military patrol having levied a contribution of about 30*l.* from the inhabitants of the village during his recent visit there in search of brigands.

The Pasha has summoned the officer in question to Larissa to be tried by Court-martial.

With the above exceptions I have heard of no other complaints against the Ottoman troops in Thessaly.

Christians who have recently come here from the districts of Volo, Armyro, Carditza, and Tricalla assure me that these troops behave well towards the inhabitants; that they have received new uniforms, of which they were sadly in need; that they are well fed, and that there is little sickness amongst them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 7 in No. 382.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Malet.

Larissa, March 24, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 18th instant relative to the proceedings of the local Beys in regard to the Greek question, I have the honour to further report to your Excellency that these Beys have unanimously decided to follow the advice of Said Pasha, the Governor of Thessaly, who had strongly recommended them to take no steps likely to disturb the negotiations of the Commission at Prevesa for the delimitation of the Turco-Greek frontier; and that they have, in consequence, resolved not to send delegates to Prevesa to confer and act in concert with the Albanian Beys of Larissa, as proposed by the latter.

I should add that the Beys of Larissa took this resolution before the news reached here from Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha of the breaking off of the negotiations at Prevesa, which I telegraphed to your Excellency on the 19th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 8 in No. 382.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Malet.

Larissa, March 24, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 12th instant, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that two meetings have been held at Surbi, the first on the 17th, and the second on the 19th instant, between Major-General Iskender Pasha, the Commandant of Armyro, and the Nomarch (Prefect) of Lamia, without, however, their coming to any agreement in regard to the proposed mutual adoption of measures for the suppression of brigandage on the border.

Further negotiations on the subject have been deferred until the receipt of instructions from the Porte in regard to the proposal made by the Nomarch of Lamia that the Hellenic troops should have *carte blanche* to cross the border into Turkish territory in pursuit of brigands.

The inclosed is a Turkish copy of Iskender Pasha's Report of the proceedings at Surbi.

According to this Report it appears that the Hellenic authorities, while urging upon Iskender Pasha the expediency of their troops being allowed to enter Turkish territory for police purposes, objected to make a similar concession to the Ottoman troops in regard to the Greek territory!

Further, the Hellenic authorities gave Iskender Pasha to understand, in answer to his inquiry whether they would co-operate with him in the maintenance of tranquillity on the border pending the receipt of the Porte's instructions on the subject of their proposal, that, under the circumstances, they were not prepared to assist him in that direction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 9 in No. 382.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Malet.

Larissa, March 25, 1879.

Sir,

A BAND of sixteen brigands, under the leadership of Yani Caltiki, attacked on the 12th instant the Christian village of Banitza, in the district of Tricalla, in this province, and after burning four of its stables, with forty head of cattle they contained, seized and carried off four of the villagers as hostages, including two women. From Banitza the band proceeded to the neighbouring village of Verdi-Kussia, in district of Allassona, and there made two more hostages.

As no troops were in the vicinity, and the depredators demanded heavy ransoms for the release of the unfortunate hostages, the relatives and friends of the latter determined to organize a battue in the hope of effecting their delivery.

Some fifty peasants armed and went in pursuit. After beating about the mountains three days, they discovered the whole gang concealed in one of the numerous gorges of Mount Olympus.

The brigands, seeing they were discovered and almost surrounded, began destroying their hostages, when they were attacked on all sides by the peasants and put to flight, but, most unhappily, not before three of the poor hostages, including one of the women, had been massacred by the ruffians. The other three hostages were rescued, and the infuriated peasants, continuing the pursuit till night set in, succeeded in capturing three of the brigands, and in killing two, whose heads they cut off. The rest of the band, three of whom were wounded, dispersed and effected their escape.

I happened to be at the konak on a visit to the Commander-in-chief when the three captured brigands were brought in and delivered up to the authorities by a party of peasants from the above-named two villages. His Excellency summoned these peasants before him, and after praising their conduct and warmly thanking them for the service they have rendered to the public, decorated two of their Chiefs with the 5th class of the Medjidieh, and presented a Chassepôt rifle, with a few rounds of ammunition, to each of the men who took part in the battue.

But his Excellency, at the same time, and Saïd Pasha, the Governor of Thessaly, disapproved of their having cut off the heads of the two brigands, and censured them accordingly.

The notice which the Ottoman authorities have taken of this case, and the intolerable injuries the inhabitants suffer from the numerous brigands infesting this province, seem to have encouraged the Christian peasants in the mountain districts to show a bold front, and to actively co-operate with the military against the growing evil. Several battues have been organized in search of the bands concealed in Mount Pindus and Mount Olmypus, and yesterday evening notice was brought in that on the 22nd instant the Christian inhabitants of Conisko, a village in district of Tricalla, attacked and dispersed a gang of ten robbers, killing its Chief, Costarella.

The latter had sent to the village a requisition for 100*l.*, with a threat to burn the place if the money were not paid within twenty-four hours.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 10 in No. 382.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Malet.

Salonica, March 29, 1879.

Sir,

BY my despatches of the 7th December and of the 9th December last to Sir Henry Layard I reported that Salih Pasha had declared to the Vali here that the Bulgarian insurrection about Raslock had been virtually suppressed and at an end, because the neighbouring villagers had come to him and made their submission, with many protestations of their fidelity, &c.

This has turned out to be a feint, a ruse to enable them to tide over the winter season, for they have cropped up again, and now the whole districts of Melenic, Raslock, and Mallaish are in insurrection again, and Ahmed Pasha Liva is about to go up to take the command of the troops, supposed to be about 9,000 men, who are to act against these Bulgarian insurgents.

The Vali has received intimation from the Porte that the districts of Monastir (Betolia) and Uskub are to be formed into a new vilayet, and that Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha is appointed Governor-General of this new vilayet. The Vilayet of Salonica, under which Monastir is now placed, will thus diminish in importance.

This act leads to the presumption that the Porte has decided on restoring the original military organization of Monastir (Betolia), which was the head-quarters of the army some years ago, and fighting will again be the order of the day.

Last night the Vali summoned a Council, to communicate to them an order from the Porte to raise a loan of 60,000 Turkish liras from this vilayet, with *carte blanche* as to the terms.

The "Alexandra," flying Admiral Hornby's flag, is still in harbour, as also the "Temeraire," "Rupert," and "Flamingo." The "Salamis" left yesterday for Syra, where a large bag of mails for the fleet is awaiting to be brought here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 11 in No. 382.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Malet.

Bourgas, March 26, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that all the Bulgarian villages formerly comprised in the Caza of Bourgas, and which, lying to the south of the boundary line of Eastern Roumelia, now belong to the Vilayet of Adrianople, have been abandoned by their inhabitants, who are temporarily settled in various localities of this district.

The names of these villages are as follows:—

	Houses.
Bulgari	200
Murdzew	80
Visitza	60
Subrino	60
Calovo	40
Konak	100
Stoilew	100
Sarmasyk	80
Ichalnik	60
Göktépé	140
Grammatik	125
Resvek	30
Total	1,135

The small Greek towns of Vassilikos and Agathopoli and five Greek villages refused to leave, in spite of the menaces of the Bulgarians, who threatened to send "Comita" (Bulgar revolutionists) to turn them out.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 12 in No. 382.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Malet.

Bourgas, March 31, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the following occurrences:—

Last year, when the Bulgarian militia was levied by the Russians, a Greek of Achiala, named Alexandros Ralli, the holder of a Hellenic passport, was forcibly enrolled amongst the number; on representations made by M. Gophas, then Greek Vice-Consul here, he was after some time released, and then went to Varna and Kustendji, whence he returned to Achliao a few weeks ago, on hearing of the death of his wife and two of his children.

Here he was again arrested and imprisoned: his case was taken up by M. Mavromichalis, the present Vice-Consul of Greece, and that gentleman received an intimation from the Governor of Slimnia that the matter had been referred to Philippopolis.

Ralli was then transferred to the prison here, from which, after remaining three or four days, he was sent under Russian escort to the village of Atanaskeui, a mile from

Bourgas, where, still handcuffed, he was given over to four soldiers of the Bulgarian militia, whose instructions were to take him to Slimnia.

This occurred on the 27th March, and on the following morning the corpse of Alexandros Ralli was found in a valley called Kandjyk Déré, about half-way between Bourgas and Aidos, with four bullet wounds in it. The finder, a Bulgarian of Aidos, named Ichakiri Dimitri, son of Photi, buried the body on the spot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 13 in No. 382.

Acting Consul Calvert to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Adrianople, March 27, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Ottoman authorities of this province have succeeded in bringing the leaders of the late national defence movement in the Southern Rhodope into complete agreement with and submission to the Porte.

The Mutessarif of Demotica, Djordji Pasha, was entrusted with the negotiations, in sequence to which he proceeded early last week to Koshukavak, taking with him fifteen of the principal Christian inhabitants of the districts bordering on the Rhodope. Koshukavak (otherwise called Djuma) is the chief town of the district of Sultan-Yeri, and the place of residence of Djanavarli Ismail Aga, who was the principal leader of the movement. The other Chiefs had assembled there by appointment to receive the Mutessarif.

At the interview which ensued a satisfactory understanding was come to on all sides. The Chiefs expressed their readiness to make over their powers to the Porte's Kaimakam, for although that functionary has not ceased to reside at Koshukavak, his authority had practically remained in abeyance since the first outbreak of the rising; notably so in regard to taxes, which where collected by the Chiefs and expended for the purposes of the national defence at their sole discretion. Assurances of mutual reconciliation and goodwill were, at the same time, exchanged with the Christian notables, who have returned to their respective native places perfectly reassured, and, as it has been described to me, "rejoicing."

In confirmation of their professions of loyalty, Djanavarli and the other Chiefs, five in all, came to Adrianople the day before yesterday, in order to pay in person their respects to the Vali. Their interview with his Excellency has been entirely satisfactory.

The Chiefs called on me yesterday. I took the opportunity to press upon them the expediency of a faithful observance of their engagements, more especially as regarded the keeping of the peace towards their Christian neighbours. I represented how all-important it was for the interests of the whole Turkish nation that they should give proofs of the same spirit of forbearance as had been shown by their fellow-countrymen in the regions lately occupied by the Russians—a spirit which could not fail to win for Turkey the sympathies of civilized Europe, and in which, I added, they should therefoe endeavour to persevere, even were it to be put to new trials.

Djanavarli, as spokesman, replied that he and his late companions in arms perfectly understood the force of my reasoning, and he assured me that they would be induced by their own feelings, no less than by motives of policy, to cultivate friendly relations with the Christian inhabitants of villages at whose hands they had suffered injury. The Mussulmans of the Rhodope, he observed, were aware that those Christians who had compromised themselves had taken care to quit their native places on the withdrawal of the Russians; and they, the Mussulmans, had no desire to visit the misdeeds of these guilty fugitives upon their peaceable neighbours.

Djanavarli and the other Chiefs leave Adrianople to-morrow. The mountaineers south of the Arda, lately commanded by them, have already disbanded and returned to their homes, and the national defence movement in that part of the Rhodope is thus at an end.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 14 in No. 382.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Prevesa, March 30, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that two members of the Albanian League, Abdul Bey Frassari, of Janina, and Mehmet Ali Bey, of Berat, leave to-day for Europe. Their visit to the principal European capitals is, of course, connected with the Albanian question.

The above two gentlemen have just visited this Vice-Consulate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 383.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 217. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 8, 1879.*

ESSAD BEY, the late Turkish Ambassador, who is on the eve of his departure for Constantinople, has mentioned to me, confidentially, his last conversation with Count Andrassy, whose language, although of a character generally friendly towards Turkey, was, he said, so vague as to make it impossible to feel entire confidence in his policy.

He had spoken of the proposal for the mixed occupation, and had intimated that it had not now been brought forward by himself, but was the consequence of the exchange of views that had taken place between your Lordship and Count Schouvaloff.

I have little doubt of his having been moved to point this out to the Turkish Ambassador by the belief that any suggestion supposed to come from Austria was more likely to be regarded by the Porte with suspicion than if it proceeded from Her Majesty's Government; for His Excellency had before given me this reason for maintaining considerable reserve upon the question in his communications with the Turkish Government.

His Excellency expressed regret to Essad Bey that the whole of the Treaty Powers had not shown a willingness to furnish a contingent, and told him that he had wished the German Government at least to allow one of their Generals to be the Commander-in-chief of the occupying force, but that Prince Bismarck had declined to entertain the proposal; and that combination having failed, he supposed that the Commander would be a British officer, as an Austro-Hungarian might be viewed with distrust from some quarters.

I told my colleague that I had had no conversation with Count Andrassy upon that subject, and that I was not even aware whether Her Majesty's Government were of opinion that the whole of the occupying force should be placed under one Commander-in-chief, or intended that each contingent should be under its own.

Essad Bey had received no intimation from his Government of the manner in which they viewed the proposed measure beyond what is contained in the Circular despatch already in your Lordship's hands; but his own objections to it are evidently much less strong than they at first were, for he had, he said, told Count Andrassy that though he was convinced his Government would not consent to it if it was intended to prolong the present state of things by a foreign occupation, the case would be entirely changed if it were to be understood that the contingents were there for the purpose of allowing the Porte to enter quietly into the possession of the rights that were secured to it by the Treaty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 384.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 219.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 9, 1879.*

UPON inquiry this afternoon at the Foreign Office into the probability of a speedy conclusion of the Novi-Bazar Convention, I was informed that all the difficulties in the

way of it appeared to have been removed, and that full powers were being dispatched to Count Zichy to enable him to sign it.

Considering that the negotiations have been going on for many months, it is strange that the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador should not have been placed in a position to take immediate advantage of a favourable disposition on the part of the Porte without running the risk of Ministerial changes or the revival of fresh doubt and hesitation on the part of the Sultan.

The Ambassador's full powers will not reach Constantinople before the 18th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 385.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 221.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 10, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a telegram has been received from Count Zichy stating that the Porte consented to the mixed occupation, and was preparing a Circular to its Representatives abroad for the arrangement of the details of it, and Count Andrassy is, therefore, inclined to believe that the difficulties proceed rather from the side of Russia than from that of Turkey.

I was only able to exchange a few words with his Excellency in the street as he was hurrying to keep an appointment with the Emperor, but I informed him of the substance of your Lordship's telegram to me of yesterday, and he stated that he entirely concurred with you in holding that, whether the mixed occupation scheme stands or falls, the Russian evacuation at the appointed time must be insisted upon.

Count Andrassy goes on Saturday to Hungary for some days, but I shall see him to-morrow and endeavour to learn more of his views upon the question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 386.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 223.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 10, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch of yesterday stating that the full powers for the signature of the Novi-Bazar Convention were only now being forwarded to the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that his Excellency has been authorized by telegraph to sign it, and it is hoped that the Porte will not require the exhibition of the usual written powers previous to the conclusion of the Convention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 387.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 225.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 11, 1879.*

COUNT ANDRASSY was surprised to find that your Lordship considered the scheme for the mixed occupation likely to break down in consequence of the attitude of Turkey and of Italy, the information which he had himself received from both those quarters being of an altogether opposite character.

Count Zichy, as I have already informed your Lordship, had reported the Porte to have agreed to the proposal, and Baron Haymerle, after a conversation with M. Depretis, had also thought himself warranted in saying that the Italian Government would furnish its contingent.

Count Andrassy could not, therefore, account for the discrepancy between these reports and those which must have reached your Lordship.

His Excellency further informed me that the Porte proposed to appoint Aleko Pasha Governor-General of East Roumelia, having already ascertained that he would not be objected to by Russia; and he said that, though he had formed no high estimation of the Pasha while he was Turkish Ambassador here, he would not make any difficulties about his nomination.

As I was myself well acquainted with Aleko Pasha, and had opportunities of observing him both before and after he entered the public service of the Porte, it may be right for me to state that I believe him to be possessed of few of the qualifications likely to make him prove an efficient Governor.

As the Governor-General will be appointed for a period of five years without the means of getting rid of him if he should prove incompetent, the selection of an able administrator appears a matter of the first importance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 388.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 227. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 11, 1879.*

WHEN I called upon Count Andrassy this morning he said that as, notwithstanding the discouraging tone of your Lordship's telegram, which I had communicated to him yesterday, he still hoped that the scheme of the mixed occupation would be adopted, he thought the best way of making me acquainted with his views and opinions upon it would be to read me the telegram in which he had informed Count Zichy of the language he had held to Essad Bey, the Turkish Ambassador, on the eve of his departure for Constantinople.

He stated in it that the measure had been proposed solely in the interest of the Porte, and that it would not have been necessary if the representations he had made at Berlin against the exclusion of Turkish troops from East Roumelia had been listened to, for otherwise, as the Russian troops were withdrawn, those of the Sultan would have been entitled to take their place.

I here interrupted his Excellency to ask whether he had made these representations, of which he had spoken to Essad Bey, at the private meetings of the Plenipotentiaries, or in the Congress, for I did not recollect seeing any record of them in the Protocols.

He appeared a little startled at the question, but said he could not feel certain of having expressed the opinion in Congress; for though he had stated it strongly to your Lordship and the Earl of Beaconsfield, as he was anxious to act in perfect unison with Her Majesty's Government, he might have abstained from publicly expressing his disagreement on a matter on which they had already intimated to Russia their readiness to accede to her views.

The fact, however, remained the same, for it was the decision which he regretted that rendered it impossible to provide for the tranquillity of the province in the natural way, and rendered some special arrangement, such as a mixed occupation, necessary.

He had stated to Essad Bey that the Porte in agreeing to the measure might fairly put forward several demands, and ask that the occupation should be declared to have for its object the full carrying out of all the provisions of the Treaty; that its duration should not exceed a year; that it should see the new organization for the province put in force; that, to prevent conflicts between the different races, an impartial and general disarming of the populations of all creeds should be enforced, and that a militia, such as that contemplated by the Treaty, should be formed, instead of the Bulgarian force created by the Russians.

He strongly dissuaded the Sultan's Government from consenting to forego the right of maintaining garrisons in the Balkans, for their doing so would, in his opinion, be equivalent to the abandonment of East Roumelia and to its union with Bulgaria; but, at the same time, he would not recommend an immediate exercise of the right which he wished to see retained.

The passage of Turkish troops through the country at the present moment might provoke conflicts; but when, under the presence of the foreign contingents, tranquillity

had been secured, the garrisons would be able to proceed to the posts assigned to them without difficulty or danger.

What he should advise the Porte to do would be to occupy Bourgas, Mustapha-Pasha, and Djuma with strong garrisons, as it was entitled by Treaty to do, without posting any troops within the frontiers of East Roumelia.

I asked if he intended that these garrisons should be regarded as the Turkish contingent to the mixed occupation, and he replied that, though he perceived that he had not made the matter clear in his despatch, this was by no means his meaning.

He takes it, he says, as a matter of course that the Porte must, exactly like the other Powers, furnish the contingent that would be under the control of the Commission, and he had before been alluding only to the forces under the direct authority of the Sultan, which, according to the Treaty, might be posted on the frontiers, whether of sea or land, wherever it might be thought advisable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 389.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 28.)
My Lord, *Pera, April 4, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that I arrived at Constantinople to-day.

The French, Russian, and Turkish Commissioners for the delimitation of the southern frontier of Eastern Roumelia are also present; the Austrian, German, and Italian may be expected to arrive at an early date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON, *Major,*
93rd Highlanders.

No. 390.

Captain Gill to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 4, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, in accordance with instructions I received from Major Clarke, R.A., Asiatic Boundary Commissioner, I left England on Thursday, the 27th March, and arrived this day at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM GILL, *Captain, R.E.,*
Assistant Commissioner for the Delimitation of the Armenian Boundary.

No. 391.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 12. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, April 7, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that two of the murderers of the Italian Consul, M. Perrod, by name Mallabegovic and Gracarevic, both Mussulmans, suffered the extreme penalty of the law last Saturday morning. They were hung just outside this town, special executioners having been brought for the purpose from Austria.

Three other Mussulmans, also concerned in the murder and robbery of M. Perrod and his travelling companion, M. Leitner, have been sentenced respectively to twenty years', eighteen years', and eight months' imprisonment with hard labour, and will be sent to Austria to undergo their punishment.

One of the principal murderers of M. Perrod, a certain Omer Bey, of Travnik, has never been captured, and is believed to have escaped to the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar.

The Austrian authorities are endeavouring to suppress highway robbery and murder, of which there have been such frequent instances since the occupation, with great rigour. Only a short time since no less than ten convicted persons were shot at Travnik.

It is worthy of remark that the perpetrators of the brutal massacre of the Mutessarif of Mostar and other Ottoman functionaries in August last, although perfectly well known, have never been brought to justice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 392.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 413.)
My Lord, *Paris, April 12, 1879.*

IN my despatch No. 399 of the day before yesterday I had the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Waddington had spoken of difficulties in the way of his receiving delegates from Eastern Roumelia, but had not said positively that he should not receive them.

His Excellency told me this morning that M. Gueshoff and another delegate had arrived at Paris, and that, all things considered, he had come to the conclusion that it would be better to see them and tell them plainly the views and intentions of the French Government. He had accordingly made an appointment to receive them at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

He should, he said, state to them very distinctly that although, as they had come so far to see him, he was unwilling to subject them to the affront of not being received, still all he could tell them was that it would be vain for them to seek to obtain the consent of the French Government to any modification whatever of the Treaty of Berlin, and that the best advice he could give them was to form at once friendly relations with the Turks, and to live in harmony and good fellowship with them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 393.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 419.)
My Lord, *Paris, April 14, 1879.*

IN pursuance of your Lordship's telegraphic instructions of to-day, I mentioned this afternoon to M. Waddington that in consequence of the apprehensions conceived by Rustem Pasha the Porte proposed that Aleko Pasha should be appointed Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia in his room. I added that I was instructed by your Lordship to recommend the appointment of Aleko Pasha to the acceptance of the French Government.

M. Waddington told me that he had already received information that Aleko Pasha had been proposed by the Porte, and had been accepted by Russia. He said that he would consider the matter, and would give me an answer to-morrow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 394.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 420.)
My Lord, *Paris, April 14, 1879.*

I PRESSED M. Waddington, on the day before yesterday, for an answer on the subject of the scheme for a loan for Turkey put forward by the Ottoman Bank, but he said he was still unable to express an opinion on the subject.

Later, on the same day, I had the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram No. 14, and, in obedience to the instructions contained in it, I asked M. Waddington last night

whether, if Her Majesty's Government appointed Commissioners under the scheme in question, the French Government would do so also.

M. Waddington said that he had sent the scheme to the Finance Department to be carefully examined, and that until he had learnt the result of that examination he was unwilling to enter into any discussion on the subject.

In answer to a further inquiry, which I made this afternoon, he told me that he had no doubt that he should be able to answer my question in a few days' time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 395.

Carathéodory Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, April 16.)

Constantinople, le 14 Avril, 1879.

SON Excellence Rustem Pacha ne pouvant pas pour des motifs de santé se rendre au poste de Gouverneur-Général de la Roumelie Orientale qui lui avait été confié, et vu l'urgence qu'il y a de procéder à l'installation du Gouverneur-Général de cette province, Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan s'est plu à autoriser la nomination à ces fonctions de son Excellence Aléko Pacha. La capacité éprouvée et les qualités de ce dignitaire sont autant de titres qui lui ont recommandés au choix de Sa Majesté et autant de garanties qu'il pourra se montrer à la hauteur d'une mission si importante. Nous aimons à espérer donc que ce choix rencontrera l'assentiment des Puissances. C'est dans cette conviction que je vous prie de faire part au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la nomination dont il s'agit.

No. 396.

Count Andrassy to Count Karolyi.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Karolyi, April 16.)

(Translation.)

ON the 9th of this month I have sent the following despatch to Count Zichy:

"I have had a conversation with Essad Bey about the Turkish Circular relating to the mixed occupation, of which the following is a resumé.

"I said that we had, in the interest of the Porte, agreed to the idea of a mixed occupation. If the Berlin Congress had not, unfortunately, denied to the Porte, in opposition to my views, the right of garrison in the interior of Eastern Roumelia; were we convinced that at the present moment the Powers could agree to allow the Porte to march its troops into Eastern Roumelia at the call of the Governor, and in compliance with Article XVI of the Treaty of Berlin; were we certain that even in that case there would be no massacres between the time of the evacuation by the Russian and the entry of the Turkish troops, massacres for which, in certain quarters, the Porte would undoubtedly be held responsible; had we, in the last place, the conviction that the Porte was in a financial and in a military sense strong enough not only to occupy the Balkans in sufficient force, but also to secure the basis and the supplies of that force from perils which would be certain to arise; in that case we should deprecate the burden of sending a contingent of our own, and we should not think of advising the Porte to accept the mixed occupation scheme; but as it is, we are compelled to negative all these hypotheses. It is hardly likely that the Powers will admit the adaptability of Article XVI to the present circumstances, especially if it were the refusal of the Porte, which entailed the collapse of the mixed occupation scheme.

"The avowed and distinct object of the occupation is to carry out the Berlin Treaty in respect to Eastern Roumelia, and to give back that province to the Porte in the teeth of the Bulgarian aspirations towards unification. There is no doubt that such a measure must meet with decided opposition from the Bulgarians, who have been carefully handled to that effect; but then, again, the presence of the flags of various European Powers must convince would-be insurgents of the hopelessness of insurrection. On the other hand, we would look upon it as dangerous, and as imperilling the prestige of the Sultan in Eastern Roumelia, if his undoubted right to nominate the Governor were waived, especially just at the present time of re-establishing the Sultan's authority there. To give up the right of garrisoning the Balkans would be

equivalent to giving up Eastern Roumelia altogether. But, again, to accumulate Turkish troops on the frontiers of that province, if at the same time its internal tranquillity were not assured, would not only not tend to guarantee the future possession of the province, but in no way prevent the outbreak of massacres. There seems, therefore, to us to be every reason why the Porte should accept the scheme of mixed occupation, and, on account of the time fixed by Treaty being close at hand, why it should do so without any delay whatsoever. But we do not think that the Porte's acceptance should be unconditional and unqualified.

"Of course it does not behove us to formulate the conditions the Porte might make; but we do not hesitate to communicate to it confidentially our opinion on that subject. The Porte might declare—

"1. That by the occupation none of the rights conceded to it at Berlin could be altered or called in question.

"2. That the object of the occupation was to safeguard the European Commission during the year it was to continue its functions, to introduce the 'Statut Organique,' and in the end to re-introduce the Turkish rule.

"3. That the occupation must be strictly limited to one year.

"4. That it must be the special business of the Governor, conjointly with the European Commission, to reduce the East Roumelian militia, which had been organized by the Russian military authorities on an unjustifiable scale and in an unjustifiable form, to proportions adapted to the intentions of the Treaty of Berlin and the financial capabilities of the province; and,

"5. That the disarmament of the whole population, without distinction of creed or nationality, be immediately taken in hand and carried out, as that disarmament was, by the prevailing hatred of the different races one against the other, necessitated for the safety of the administrative authorities.

"I do not think that these conditions will be easily accepted by all the Powers. Should they, however, be rejected by one or the other Cabinet, and should the occupation scheme have to be given up in consequence, then, according to our view of the case, the only way to secure the peaceful transfer of power would be to admit the applicability of Article XVI to the present circumstances, and to agree to the Governor calling in Turkish troops immediately.

"I have also informed Essad Bey of our ideas in respect to the military steps which the Porte ought practically to take.

"It ought to use its right of placing a body of troops at Bourgas, where they would have the sea as basis, and another body might take up a position somewhere about Mustapha-Pasha, where it could fulfil its object in respect to Eastern Roumelia, and at the same time be in a position to assure the tranquillity of Adrianople; the place for a third body would seem indicated on the west frontier, somewhere about Djuma, where the same troops would command Eastern Roumelia and occupy a position towards Servia at the same time. I lay particular stress on these points, because we, and I believe also England, must, in consequence of the limited numbers of the contingents we propose sending, be able to count upon a considerable body of Turkish troops in case those contingents were endangered.

"According to the information we receive from all sides in respect of the difficulties an occupation of the Balkans by Turkish troops would soon encounter, especially in regard to supplies and communication, it would be necessary, if the mixed occupation were not carried out, to supply very nearly 100,000 men for that purpose. But if the occupation by European contingents is carried out in the interior of Eastern Roumelia, it will be possible to occupy, when once the frontier has been settled, one by one, the most important strategic points in the Balkans with comparatively small forces. The supplies for these garrisons in the Balkans will, on the other hand, be obtained with ease, partly on account of the presence of the European contingents in the interior, partly on account of the disarmament of the population."

No. 397.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 332.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 15, 1879.*

HAVING learnt from the Minister for Foreign Affairs that Prince Labanoff declared that participation of the English Commissioner in the delimitation of the Asiatic frontier could only begin at Kassadagh, I showed to the Prince Count

Schouvaloff's letter of the 13th February, inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 274 of the 3rd March. On reading it his Excellency said he would withdraw his opposition to English Commissioner beginning his work at Karaourghan.

No. 398.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 333.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 15, 1879.*

THE Russian Ambassador said to me to-day that he had written his personal views regarding Eastern Roumelia to his Government as follows:—

A Bulgarian Administration, in accordance with terms of Constitution, should by degrees take the place of the Russian Administration. The transition should be effected under the Russian General in command, and under the surveillance of the International Commission. The Commission should decide at what moment during the transition the Turkish Governor-General should assume office. The Prince's principal object is to prevent any break in continuity between present and future Government.

No. 399.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 34.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buveno, April 16, 1879.*

MR. MACDONELL reports that Albanian Agents have left Rome. MM. Depretis and Tornielli assured them they were convinced of justice of their representation, and that they might rely on the support of the Italian Government, but that their most difficult task, viz., to convince French Government, still lay before them.

Mr. Macdonell believes they intend going to England after Paris, but much will depend on their reception by French Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Italian Government, however, seem to have been very decided in their language, to the extent, even, of admitting that the Congress of Berlin had no right to dispose of their territory.

No. 400.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 145.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April 16, 1879.*

I UNDERSTAND it is not Aleko, but his nephew, who has been at Philippopolis.

If the Commission is to be continued, I would suggest that it should be so for three months, renewable in like terms for a year. After the Assembly is elected, and the Permanent Committee constituted, it will perhaps be considered desirable to withdraw the Commission to avoid collision with those bodies. This could be done more easily if the term of extension is not too long.

No. 401.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 16.)

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, April 16, 1879.*

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs will telegraph to Constantinople that French Government have no objection to appointment of Aleko as Governor of Roumelia, but that they must request Porte not to send Rustem Pasha back to Syria, but to find some other post for him.

French Minister for Foreign Affairs begs your Lordship to support this request

about Rustem Pasha. He says that he will not be able to give an answer about Commissioners under the Ottoman Loan scheme until the day after to-morrow or the day after that.

No. 402.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 16, 1879, 3·15 P.M.*

I ENTIRELY agree in your recommendation to General Hamley reported in yours 142.

We are informed from St. Petersburgh that strong orders have been sent to prevent mobilization of gymnastic societies.

No. 403.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 199.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April 16, 1879.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 87 of the 7th instant, reporting the observations you addressed to M. de Giers on the subject of the expulsion from their homes of Mahommedan families in Eastern Roumelia, of which reports have recently reached Her Majesty's Government.

Your Excellency's language upon this matter is entirely approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 404.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 200.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April 16, 1879.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 91 of the 8th instant, reporting your conversation with Prince Gortchacow, Count Schouvaloff, and General Todleben as to the means of securing the peaceful re-establishment of the Sultan's authority in Eastern Roumelia upon the withdrawal of the Russian troops.

Your Excellency's language has the entire concurrence and approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 405.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 198.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 16, 1879.*

I HAVE this day telegraphed to you to express my entire concurrence in the advice given by you to General Hamley, as reported in your telegram No. 142 of the 12th instant, that the Bulgarian Frontier Commissioners should commence their operations from the western point of the Balkan frontier.

I have also informed you that, according to a report received from Lord Dufferin, orders have been sent from St. Petersburgh to prevent the mobilization of the gymnastic societies in Eastern Roumelia, to the danger of which you have drawn attention in your telegram above referred to.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 406.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 206.)
My Lord, *Berlin, April 13, 1879.*

THE German Government have appointed Major Count Wedel, at present Military Attaché to the German Embassy at Vienna, to act as Commissioner for the delimitation of the Bulgarian frontier; and Captain Krahmer in the same capacity for the delimitation of the frontier between Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria.

Both these officers have been instructed to proceed forthwith to Constantinople, and there to await the arrival of their colleagues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 407.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 207.)
My Lord, *Berlin, April 14, 1879.*

IN my despatch No. 118 of the 22nd February last I stated that the Russian Government hoped to negotiate a loan of about 15,000,000*l.* through several minor French bankers, and I now hear that those French bankers are negotiating with Dutch, Belgian, and Luxembourg firms to obtain the money required by Russia.

Negotiations are at present being carried on in Brussels.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 408.

M. Gennadius to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 17.)

My Lord, *April 16, 1879.*

THE well-known Hellenic character and nationality of Epirus and its chief town Janina having been contested of late with a boldness of assertion equalled only by the recusancy of the facts of the case themselves, M. Delyanni has forwarded to me a note inclosing two Memoranda on this point of the question; and, in compliance with his instructions, I beg to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of the same.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GENNADIUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 408.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.

Monsieur, *Athènes, le* $\frac{24 \text{ Mars}}{5 \text{ Avril}}$ 1879.

PENDANT les séances que les Commissaires ont tenues à Prevesa pour procéder, par une entente directe entre les deux Etats, à la rectification de la ligne frontière, conformément à la décision du Congrès de Berlin, les Commissaires Ottomans ont, à plusieurs reprises, déclaré inadmissibles les limites indiquées dans le Protocole No. 13. (Voir procès-verbal de la première séance tenue le $\frac{27 \text{ Janvier}}{8 \text{ Février}}$ 1879.)

Lorsque, après bien des détours et temporisations, les Délégués Ottomans s'étaient enfin décidés de proposer la ligne par laquelle ils entendaient exécuter les décisions du Congrès, ils en indiquèrent certains points à nos Commissaires, dans la cinquième et dernière séance, dont le procès-verbal vous a été communiqué par notre dépêche du $\frac{8}{21}$ courant.

La ligne proposée par les Commissaires Ottomans étaient tellement éloignée des indications du Protocole No. 13 qu'on a dû, à juste titre, la qualifier de dérisoire.

Mais, pour donner un semblant de raison à leur refus absolu de prendre pour base des négociations le Protocole No. 13, et pour atténuer l'impression qui n'eût pas manqué de produire sur les esprits la ligne dont ils avaient révélé quelques points

dans la dernière séance, les Commissaires Ottomans ont eu recours à des arguments plus faibles les uns que les autres.

En agissant ainsi, les Délégués de la Porte commettaient, selon nous, une grave méprise sur la nature et la portée des décisions du Congrès de Berlin; car il est évident que, par leur refus de procéder à la rectification des frontières, selon les indications du Protocole No. 13, ils méconnaissaient les raisons majeures qui avaient suggéré aux Puissances cette délimitation et rendaient illusoire le but qu'elles s'en étaient proposé.

Il ne nous appartient pas, peut-être d'entreprendre la réfutation des arguments invoqués par les Commissaires de la Porte, et nous aurions pu nous en abstenir; ainsi que nous l'avons fait en automne dernier, à l'occasion du mémoire adressé par Safvet Pacha aux Grandes Puissances contre le principe de la rectification des frontières.

Nous sommes convaincus qu'en prenant les décisions consignées dans l'acte international de Berlin, les Puissances, tout en ayant en vue les intérêts généraux, n'en avaient pas moins une connaissance exacte de toutes les circonstances se rattachant aux contrées sur le sort desquelles elles allaient se prononcer, et qu'elles étaient en mesure d'apprécier mieux que tout autre les besoins et le caractère des populations dont elles voulaient accomplir les vœux.

Nous croyons, cependant, qu'il ne serait pas inutile de fournir aussi notre contingent de renseignements sur les contrées dont il s'agit, pour démontrer complétement l'inanité des arguments invoqués par les Commissaires de la Porte. D'ailleurs, l'argumentation des Commissaires Ottomans est tellement contraire aux notions de l'histoire et à la situation ethnologique et géographique des pays en question qu'elle ne saurait comporter ni un long examen ni une réfutation sérieuse.

Les principales raisons invoquées par les Délégués Ottomans portent sur les trois points suivants:—

1. Que le territoire compris dans la Vallée de Kalama est Albanais.
2. Que la Turquie, ayant besoin d'un débouché sur la Thessalie, ne pouvait pas proposer la cession de tout le Golfe de Volo.
3. Que la ligne proposée offre de grands avantages stratégiques aux deux Etats.

Les considérations contenues dans le Mémorandum ci-joint tendent à prouver que la première de ces raisons est complétement dénuée de fondement. Par le courrier prochain je vous enverrai la réfutation des deux autres points.

Je vous transmets de plus une monographie sur la ville de Janina.

Lors de mon passage par les différentes capitales de l'Europe au mois de Juillet de l'année dernière, j'avais communiqué cette étude aux Ministres des Affaires Etrangères et aux Légations Royales. Mais je n'en crois pas moins opportun de vous envoyer de nouveau un exemplaire de ce travail. Je vous prie de porter à la connaissance de son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères les considérations contenues dans toutes les deux annexes, car on pourrait y puiser des éléments propres à élucider les questions qui en font l'objet.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) THEODORE P. DELYANNI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 408.

Memorandum respecting the Town of Janina.

Historique.—LA ville de Janina a été bâtie vers le sixième siècle de notre ère. L'an 673 on trouve déjà dans les chroniques un Evêché de Janina dépendant de la Metropole de Naupacte.

Un des petits Princes Italiens qui, pendant le onzième siècle, avaient successivement convoité et conquis l'Epire, le Duc d'Apulie et de Sicile, Raimond, se rendit en 1082 maître de Janina, fortifia la ville, et s'y établit, jusqu'à ce qu'il en fût dépossédé par l'Empereur Grec Aloxis le Comnène.

Lorsqu'après la prise de Constantinople par les Croisés l'Empire de Byzance eût été morcelé et divisée en un grand nombre de Principautés autonomes, Michel Ange le Comnène prit possession de l'Epire, et fit de Janina sa résidence. L'Empereur de Byzance, Andronique, mit fin en 1318 à la domination des Comnènes; mais il fit place à son tour, trois ans après, à une nouvelle série de Seigneurs, dont le premier fut le Comte Jean I^er^, de Céphalonie, et qui restèrent maîtres de l'Epire jusqu'à l'an 1346, où, Stephano le Cral de Serbie, ayant envahi le pays, son frère Syracon fut nommé Prince de l'Epire, résidant à Janina.

Quarante ans après, le dernier Prince Serbe, Isaoul, fait acte de soumission au Sultan Bazazet, qui le confirme dans la possession de sa Principauté; et, en 1405, les Albanais de Sgouros, frère de Jean Sparter, s'emparent de l'Epire et de Janina pour en être expulsés deux ans après par le Prince de Céphalonie, Jean Tsoko, qui établit en Epire la domination de sa famille jusqu'à 1431.

A cette époque Sinan Pacha, le Général du Sultan Amurat, se rendit maître de Janina, après un siége de courte durée. La ville capitula, mais aux termes du Traité de reddition, la haute et basse Epire, y comprise l'Acarnaine, restèrent sous la domination de leur Seigneur, Charles II. Ainsi la ville se sacrifia, pour sauver quelque temps encore de la domination Ottomane le reste du pays.

Très-petit fut le nombre des Ottomans qui s'établirent alors à Janina (200 au plus). Ne pouvant aux termes du Traité habiter dans la forteresse, ils s'établirent hors de la ville, et ils formèrent un quartier à part. Un jour de fête ils se rassemblèrent aux portes de la Cathédrale de Janina, et se saisirent chacun d'une fille Chrétienne dont ils firent leurs épouses. Ce rapt, qui avait été autorisé par le Sultan, fut la première cause de l'accroissement de la population Mussulmane de Janina.

C'est à cette époque que le nom de Georges Castrioti, ou Skender Bey, se fait entendre pour la première fois. Sa domination n'a jamais compris la Province de Janina. Dans la nouvelle Epire il n'a possédé que Croya, Durazzo, Albano, et la partie de Musaquier, en deçà du Fleuve Apos (Ergent ou Devol); dans l'ancienne, il avait des alliances avec Chimara, Tépélin, et Argyrocastro.

Lors de la prise de Constantinople (1453) toute l'Epire ancienne et nouvelle était sous la domination Ottomane, hors quelques villes et forts maritimes, tels que Vonitza, Actium, Parga, Bouthroto, Avlona, et Durazzo, qui restaient encore aux Venitiens.

Janina, qui conservait toujours les privilèges stipulés lors de la conquête, avait échappé pendant deux siècles aux catastrophes des guerres continuelles entre les Vénitiens et les Turcs, lorsqu'en 1612 une émeute malheureuse contre les Turcs, bientôt étouffé dans le sang, fit perdre aux habitants Chrétiens leurs prérogatives.

La population Musulmane de Janina avait cependant augmentée. Des conversions nombreuses, et surtout l'enrôlement d'enfants Chrétiens dans les hordes de Janissaires avaient peu à peu affaibli l'élément Chrétien.

Un autre incident malheureux, survenu en 1635, contribua à affaiblir bien plus encore cet élément. Les Epirotes Chrétiens avaient conservé depuis la conquête le droit de percevoir la dîme de quelques terres, qu'ils percevaient déjà à titre de fiefs, sous l'Empire Byzantin, à la condition de s'enrôler dans la cavalerie Ottomane toutes les fois que le Gouvernement les appelait. Les fiefs en question s'appelaient "Spahiliks," et leurs possesseurs "Spahis." Les Spahis de l'Epire avaient leur drapeau Chrétien à l'enseigne de St. Georges; mais ils étaient tenus de déployer à sa place le drapeau Turc, aussitôt qu'ils venaient à passer les frontières de leur pays. L'année précitée le Sultan Murat IV avait déclaré la guerre aux Persans, et les Spahis de l'Epire, qui y avaient pris part, voyant dans un combat la déroute des troupes Ottomanes, déployèrent leur drapeau de St. Georges, et, pris d'enthousiasme, attaquèrent si vigoureusement l'armée Persane, qu'ils changèrent dans quelques moments la défaite des Ottomans dans une brillante victoire. Cet exploit des Epirotes, parvenu à la connaissance de la Porte, leur attira, au lieu d'une récompense, une cruelle punition. Effrayé de la bravoure des Spahis, et craignant les dangers qui pouvaient en résulter pour sa propre autorité, le Gouvernment Ottoman retira les Spahiliks à tous les Epirotes Chrétiens, qui n'auraient pas embrassé l'Islamisme. Ainsi bon gré, malgré, tous les Spahis se laissèrent convertir.

En 1685 l'Epire et l'Acarnanie étaient composées des toparchies suivantes:—

1. Epire centrale, comprenant Berat, Premureti et Pogoniani.
2. Avlona, comprenant aussi Tepelin.
3. Mouzakier.
4. Delvino et Argyrocastro.
5. Janina.
6. Arta.
7. Etolie et Acarnanie.

Les districts de Chimara de Souli et quelques autres conservaient leur autonomie.

La toparchie de Janina était gouvernée par un Pacha à deux queues, résidant à Janina et représentant le Pacha de Salonique. Les autres provinces avaient des Pachas ou Voïvodes, *ad hoc*, dépendant directement de Constantinople.

Depuis ce temps jusqu'à l'époque d'Ali Pacha, l'histoire de Janina n'offre aucun fait digne d'être relaté, hors quelques incursions isolées dans le pays, et la première

apparition des Armatoles et les Klephtes, ces héroïques précurseurs de la lutte de 1821. Ce qu'il y a de plus triste dans cette période de temps c'est l'abjuration en masse des Chrétiens, qui n'avaient d'autre issue pour échapper aux exactions de la race dominante. Ainsi les habitants d'Albanie, proprement dits, les premiers, puis ceux de la Thesprotie (Tzamouria) les Liapis d'Avlona, les habitants d'un grand nombre de villages de Delvino, de Philiates, de Paramythia et de Margariti, ont les uns après les autres embrassé l'Islamisme. De ces populations converties, les Tzamis sont devenues plus fanatiques que les Turcs mêmes; quant aux Liapis et les Toscs, ils ont conservé et conservent encore leurs noms Chrétiens, et les mœurs et coutumes Helléniques. Ainsi dans le village de Ducatés on se marie encore aujourd'hui entre Chrétiens et Musulmans, et il y a des Turcs qui tiennent sur les fonts du baptême les enfants des Chrétiens. Les Musulmans de Curvelissi fêtent les Saints de l'Eglise Grecque aussi solennellement que leur Baïram.

Quant à la domination d'Ali Pacha (1788-1821) l'histoire en est trop connue pour qu'il soit nécessaire d'en répéter ici mêmes les faits les plus saillants. Il ne faut pas néanmoins passer sous silence qu'à l'exception des deux dernières années de la vie d'Ali, pendant lesquelles Janina fut bien des fois pillée et incendiée, à cause de sa lutte avec le Divan, sa domination ne fut pas fatale au pays. Le bien-être des habitants n'eut rien à en souffrir. Au contraire, l'industrie de la ville florissait; et bien des fois plus tard, pendant les péripéties de la guerre de l'indépendance, les habitants de Janina eurent lieu de regretter le temps d'Ali Pacha. Il dépouillait, c'est vrai, ses sujets, mais au moins il ne permettait pas à ses subalternes d'en faire autant.

Depuis 1822 jusqu'aux temps de l'Administration de Mechmet Rechit Pacha (1830) Janina fut bien des fois en butte aux déprédations des troupes irrégulières Albanaises, qui revenaient des provinces Grecques insurgées. Mais la ville était alors déserte d'habitants Chrétiens, les uns ayant émigré à l'étranger, les autres se trouvant engagés dans la lutte de l'indépendence. Après la constitution du Royaume Hellénique et sa délimitation fit évanouir leurs espérances les plus chères, un très-petit nombre des anciens habitants de Janina regagnèrent leurs foyers. La ville fut colonisée par les habitants des alentours, ou d'autres parties de l'Epire.

Population.—La ville de Janina se distinguait déjà pendant le seizième et dix-septième siècle par sa population et sa richesse, de toutes les autres villes Helléniques. Une bulle de l'Empereur Andronius (1319) donne à Janina le nom de ville très-grande et très-riche (*Μεγιστην καί πλουσιωτάτην πόλω*). Les voyageurs Anglais Spon et Wheler, qui l'ont visitée en 1660, font mention très-honorable non-seulement de sa richesse commerciale, mais aussi de ses magnifiques établissements d'instruction. M. Garnier, Consul de France, qui a été le premier Consul Européen en Epire en 1695, met Janina sur la même ligne que Marseille pour sa population et son commerce important. En 1731, dans un recensement des habitants de Janina, on a trouvé 8,000 familles, ce qui fait 50,000 âmes à peu près. Dans les dernières années d'Ali Pacha, on comptait a Janina plus de 35,000 habitants fixes—Chrétiens, Turcs et Juifs. En 1862 il y avait 2,380 familles Chrétiennes, 900 Musulmans et 370 Juives, en tout 22,000 d'habitants fixes, et 4,000 de population flottante.

D'après un recensement fait par le Gouvernement en 1866 pour le service et l'impôt militaire, on trouve à Janina: mâles Chrétiens, 4,387; mâles Turcs, 2,018; Juifs, 1,515; c'est-à-dire mâles, 7,920; ce qui suppose une population fixe d'environ 18,000 âmes (parce qu'on doit supposer que le dixième à peu près de la population mâle était soustrait aux recensements militaires pour éviter le service ou l'impôt). Cette population se décompose en 10,000 Chrétiens, 5,000 Ottomans, et 3,000 Juifs.

Depuis ce temps il n'y a pas eu de recensement plus précis, pour qu'on puisse déduire avec exactitude le nombre actuel des habitants, mais on peut conjecturer que, si on le faisait, on trouverait encore une plus forte diminution. En attendant les indications, des registres de l'Evêché donnent le nombre de 12,000 habitants Chrétiens, habitants fixes.

Nous n'avons pas compris dans les chiffres ci-dessus l'Ile de Janina, qui contient quatre-vingts familles exclusivement Chrétiennes.

Quant à la Province de Janina (circonscription administrative), qui est formée de quatre districts administratifs: Zagori, Malakassi, Zarakovitza, et Conreouta, lesquels comptent 325 villages et 7,438 familles, ou bien 12,000 ménages, elle avait, en 1866, 34,445 habitants mâles, tous Chrétiens, et parlant Grec, ce qui donne en tout le chiffre total de 75,000 âmes.

Langue.—Dans la ville et la Province de Janina le Grec est parlé, même par les

habitants Turcs et Juifs. Il n'y a que quelques villages, de six a dix, qui parlent outre le Grec, le Valaque, et dix autres qui parlent le Grec et l'Albanais.

Autorité Ecclésiastique.—L'Eglise de Janina a été élevée à la dignité Métropolitaine dès 1319, sous l'Empereur Andronikus l'aîné; elle a eu depuis les temps les plus anciens, sous sa juridiction outre les quatre districts nommés plus haut, quatre Evêchés en Epire, c'est-à-dire, à Paramythia, Vella, Driunople, et Chinara. En 860 l'Eglise de Janina était subordonnée au Metropolitain de Naupacte. Le Métropolitain de Janina porte en outre le titre de "Suprême Exarque de toute l'Epire et de Corcyre." Ce titre lui a été conféré, à ce qu'il paraît, dans le temps ou Corcyre (Corfou) avait été annexé temporairement à l'Epire sous l'Empereur Michel I (treizième siècle).

Aujourd'hui le Métropolitain de Janina exerce sa juridiction sur les districts de Coureuti, Zagori, Malakassi, Zumerka, et Sarakovitza, c'est-a-dire, sur environ de 100,000 Chrétiens. Il a en outre le simple droit de surveillance sur l'Evêché de Paramythia.

Legs et Dotations.—Aucune ville, ni en Grèce, ni ailleurs, peut-être, n'a été dotée aussi richement par le patriotisme de ses enfants. Dès 1600 on voit des Janiotes consacrer à leur pays des sommes considérables. Outre les capitaux déposés à la Banque Nationale de Venise, et que ont été perdus, par suite de la chûte de la République, outres les capitaux non moins considérables, déposés à la Banque de Vienne, la ville de Janina perçoit à présent 300,000 fr. environ d'intérêts, de différents capitaux, qui lui ont été légués, et déposés pour la plus grande part en Russie, ou à la Banque Nationale Hellénique. Cette somme est affectée aux termes des dispositions testamentaires à l'entretien des écoles de la ville, ou de ces établissements de bienfaisance. Grâce à ces legs on a pu fonder et entretenir à Janina un hôpital, un hospice pour les vieillards, un orphelinat, un asile des pauvres; on y dote tous les ans un grand nombre de filles pauvres, des secours y sont distribués à beaucoup de familles indigentes; on nourrit des prisonniers et des enfants trouvés; on donne les pensions aux pauvres veuves; on paye les taxes des pauvres, &c.

Mais la plus grande part de ces revenus servent à maintenir les écoles de la ville, dont nous parlerons plus bas.

Cette fortune est administrée par un Comité composé des Ephores de l'Ecole des Frères Zossima, du chapitre des églises et de quelques Notables, choisis par le peuple, et présidé par le Métropolitain.

N.B.—Une quantité non moins considérable de legs existe en faveur de la Province de Janina, et particulièrement des villages Zagoria, qui ont donné à la nation beaucoup d'hommes de lettres.

Ecoles.—La culture des lettres florissait à Janina, il y a déjà trois siècles.

Tous les couvents des environs n'étaient que des écoles supérieures où les Prieurs, hommes distingués par leur savoir, donnaient des leçons aux jeunes prêtres. Il y a toute une série de moines savants de cette époque, qu'on pourrait nommer, tels que les Philantropini, Plessn, &c. Les élèves de ces écoles allaient enseigner, ensuite non-seulement dans les villes de l'Italie, mais aussi dans d'autres pays, en dignes successeurs des illustres réfugiés Grecs, qui, après la chûte de Constantinople, ont répandu l'instruction dans l'Occident, où ils avaient cherché asile. En 1670 nous trouvons en Italie N. Keramas, excellent théologien et philosophe de Janina, et beaucoup d'autres. Quelques années avant (1645) on parle d'une dispute entre l'Ecole Philosophique d'Athènes, dirigée par Théophilos le Korydaléen, et celle de Janina, dirigée par le Corcyréen Koursoulos.

Peu de temps après on commence à fonder dans la ville même de Janina des écoles plus systématiques, où l'on enseignait la littérature Hellénique et la philosophie. C'est dans ces écoles, qui étaient généreusement entretenues par les riches dotations susmentionnées, qu'ont étudié ou professé presque tous les Grecs distingués des deux derniers siècles, tels que Bessarion, Macris, Sougdoury, Methodius, Suthraeite, Balanos, Vassilopoulos, Cosmas Balomos, Mélétius le Géographe; Eugène Bulgaris, Psalidas, C. Assopius, Gennadius, Sakellarius, &c.

La ville de Janina fut plusieurs fois incendiée ou détruite, avec toutes ses écoles; néanmoins, le zèle de ses habitants en a tout de suite érigé d'autres encore plus belles. L'école des Frères Zossima, fondée en 1828, existe encore aujourd'hui, et tient une place honorable parmi les meilleurs gymnases Helléniques.

La ville de Janina possède aujourd'hui un Gymnase complet, le Zossiméon, fréquenté par 700 élèves, cinq écoles d'enseignement mutuel, où cette methode a été introduite pour la première fois, avec 2,000 élèves; trois écoles pour les jeunes filles, avec 440 élèves; deux écoles pour les enfants en bas âge; et on est en train de fonder une école normale.

C'est à cause de cette masse d'établissements d'instruction que la ville et la province de Janina tiennent aujourd'hui une des premières places parmi les pays de l'Europe, où l'instruction est largement développée; la proportion entre les lettrés et les illettrés est de neuf sur dix.

Il ne faut pas de plus oublier que la plus grande partie des ouvrages Helléniques publiés dans les deux derniers siècles sont dus au patriotisme généreux des riches Janiotes. C'est aux largesses des Marountzi, des Zossimas, des Kaplani, &c., qu'on doit la publication des vers originaux et les traductions du Korais, de Néophyte Douka, et de tant d'autres savants, qui ont exercé une influence si bienfaisante sur la renaissance du génie Hellénique.

Le profit que la nation a tiré sous tous les rapports du patriotisme des enfants de cette ville a été si important que Néophyte Douka était dans le vrai en affirmant que tous les auteurs Grecs de ces derniers temps ont été ou Janiotes, ou élèves de l'école de Janina; il avait raison de comparer ces écoles à un grand fleuve, qui a donné naissance à d'innombrables rivières qui ont fécondé toutes les autres villes de la Grèce.

Inclosure 3 in No. 408.

Memorandum respecting the Valley of Thyamis (Kalama).

LES Commissaires de la Porte ont prétendu "qu'il se produirait des inconvénients trop graves pour que l'on puisse prendre une décision à la légère. Ainsi, l'Albanie, dont la population est composée d'éléments homogènes, se trouverait morcelée, et il est à prévoir que les Albanais, justement alarmés en voyant leur homogénéité ainsi entamée, considéreront leur nationalité menacée de disparaître et feront indubitablement des efforts énergiques pour la conserver intacte." (Voir procès-verbal de la première séance tenue le $\frac{27 \text{ Janvier}}{8 \text{ Février}}$ 1879.)

Dans la cinquième séance, tenue le $\frac{5}{18}$ courant, ces mêmes Commissaires disaient que "l'application du Protocole 13 aurait pour résultat inévitable d'amener au paroxysme l'effervescence qui s'est manifestée en Albanie depuis qu'il a été question de rectification de frontières entre les deux Etats."

Si les Albanais formaient une nationalité compacte, ayant sa propre individualité et la conscience de son existence historique, si une nation Albanaise habitait, dans des conditions pareilles, les territoires compris dans la Vallée du Kalama, qui doit être annexée à la Grèce, d'après le Protocole 13, les réflexions des Commissaires Ottomans auraient pu avoir quelque fondement et les éventualités qu'ils ont signalées auraient pu, peut-être, se produire.

Mais la contrée compriso dans la Vallée du Kalama n'a jamais été Albanaise dans le passé et ne l'est pas non plus actuellement.

Nous n'invoquerons pas l'histoire ancienne par la raison que les délégués de la Porte pourraient chercher d'amoindrir l'autorité de ce témoignage, en mettant en avant les changements qu'a fait subir à ces pays la conquête par les Musulmans. Mais nous allons invoquer l'histoire des temps postérieurs à la conquête, en citant des témoignages d'historiens qui, n'étant pas Grecs, ne sauraient être taxés de partialité.

Ainsi Pouqueville, dans son ouvrage "Histoire de la Grèce," (vol. ii., p. 26), dit que "l'Epire depuis le temps de sa conquête par Amurat renferme trois nations, qui sont: les Turcs, d'extraction Tartare, les Schypétars ou Albanais, devenus Mahometans ou restés Chrétiens, et les Grecs, portion respectable de l'Etat qu'elle vivifie du produit de son industrie et qui, malgré l'inclémence du sort, sont destinés à renaître, &c."

Si, d'après le témoignage de Pouqueville, parmi les trois éléments qui se trouvaient en Epire, l'élément Grec occupait déjà en 1820 une place prépondérante, les Commissaires Ottomans conviendront avec nous que la tendance innée de l'élément Hellénique vers le progrès—tendance qui fait contraste avec le caractère stationnaire de l'élément Albanais et Turc—n'a pu que modifier dans une large mesure, pendant le demi siècle qui s'est écoulé, au profit de l'élément Hellénique, les proportions qui, d'après Pouqueville, existaient en 1820 entre les différentes nationalités de l'Epire. N'oublions pas d'ajouter que l'influence exercée sur ces contrées par la formation et le développement du Royaume Hellénique a puissamment contribué à ce résultat. On ne saurait donc que considérer comme imaginaire l'homogénéité dont parlent les

Commissaires Ottomans, homogénéité qui serait entamée par l'exécution du Protocole et la cession à la Grèce de la Vallée du Kalama!

Le Gouvernement Ottoman confond l'Epire avec l'Albanie qui est située au delà, et il l'étend arbitrairement jusqu'aux frontières actuelles du Royaume Hellénique.

De cette manière il efface les contrées intermédiaires qui forment l'Epire et, pour justifier cette confusion, il cherche à se prévaloir du fait que sur cette contrée Hellénique on trouve aussi des habitants Albanais. Mais M. Hahn ("Albanische Studien," p. 10-11) dit clairement que le territoire du Pinde avec les Plateaux de Zagori et de Janina (anciens Nymphée, Dodone, et Eolopie) formait la contrée que les anciens appelait Epire.

Il est vrai que dans cette contrée Grecque, connue sous le nom d'Epire, dont la Vallée du Kalama n'est qu'une partie, on rencontre quelques Albanais, mais cette circonstance ne modifie nullement sa situation ethnologique.

Sous le rapport de la langue, l'Epire peut être divisée en trois régions: celle du nord, où l'on ne parle que l'Albanais; la limite de cette région du côté sud passé par Demiko sur le Pinde, se dirige entre Chiontades et Wurbjani et entre Margaretti et Sotanitza et, de là, elle va à Argyrocastro, Pravidja, Palaioepiscopi et Lazariti (Voir Hahn, n. 14). La deuxième région est celle du littoral où l'on parle le Grec et l'Albanais; et la troisième comprend le reste de l'Epire où l'on ne parle que le Grec, sauf quelques petites colonies Albanaises jetées çà et là au milieu d'une contrée éminemment Grecque. A cette dernière région appartiennent les villes d'Aosta, de Preveza et Janina (Voir Hahn ibidem).

Le chiffre de la population Albanaise qui habite l'Epire est minime, et on ne saurait certes en tirer la conclusion que les habitants de l'Epire ne sont pas Grecs de religion, de langue, et de mœurs.

En effet, bien qu'il ne fût pas possible au Gouvernement Ottoman de dresser une statistique exacte de la population, on a recueilli des renseignements provenant d'autres sources et confirmés par les informations des autorités ecclésiastiques.

D'après ces données contenues dans le Tableau ci-annexé, la population Chrétienne ou Grecque des Sandjaks de Preveza et de Janina qui forment la Vallée du Halama non compris les Hazas de Grevsna et Konitza qui relèvent du Sandjak de Janina et sont situés vers le nord de la Vallée de Kalamas), se trouve dans la proportion de cinq sur un envers les habitants non-Chrétiens, Musulmans, et Israélites.

Il faut aussi ne pas perdre de vue que l'usage de la langue Albanaise se rencontre même dans la Grèce libre, sans qu'il soit venu à l'idée de personne de contester la nationalité Hellénique de ceux qui emploient cet idiome.

Ainsi, il existe au Péloponèse des communautés entières faisant usage de la langue Albanaise. On parle l'Albanais dans les Iles d'Hydra et de Spezzia. Dans des Communes de l'Attique on parlé l'Albanais, et à Athènes même, il existait, il n'y a pas longtemps, un quartier dont les habitants ne parlaient que la langue Albanaise et qui l'emploient encore au sein de la famille.

Mais les habitants d'Hydra et de Spezzia qui ont illustré la marine Grecque pendant la guerre de l'Indépendance, comme aussi les autres habitants du royaume qui parlent Albanais, auraient considéré comme une offense qu'on mit en doute leur nationalité Hellénique.

Le petit nombre d'Albanais disséminés dans les contrées Helléniques n'a pas tardé, du reste, d'être assimilé complétement à l'élément Grec par suite de l'influence de la législation et de la communauté de mœurs et de sentiments.

Il est hors de doute que les populations Albanaises qu'on rencontre clairsemées dans la Vallée de Kalama subiront cette influence et que, si les décisions de l'Europe sont entièrement exécutées, les Albanais Tzami qui habitant l'Epire seront, dans un prochain avenir, les défenseurs les plus ardents de l'Hellénisme et les idées Helléniques, à l'instar des habitants d'Hydra et de Spezzia ou de ceux de l'Attique et d'Argos.

Nous venons de dire que le territoire de la Vallée de Kalama fait partie de l'Epire, que celle-ci est une contrée Hellénique et qu'elle l'était *ab antiquo*.

Lorsque le fameux Tepenli Ali Pacha, ayant encouru la disgrace du Sultan, fut condamné par Firman à être décapité, les Musulmans l'appelèrent Firmanly de l'Epire et non de l'Albanie, tandis que son pouvoir s'étendait au delà de l'Epire en Albanie. (Voir "Pouqueville," vol. ii. p. 26.)

Lors des négociations concernant la formation du royaume Hellénique, Capodistria indiquait à l'Europe une ligne qui allait beaucoup plus au nord que la Vallée du Kalama. En demandant que les territoires compris dans cette ligne fissent partie du royaume Hellénique, le Président était convaincu que c'était là des contrées Helléniques et que la frontière qu'il proposait était nécessaire pour que le nouveau royaume pût vivre et se développer.

"La frontière la plus naturelle," disait il dans son Mémoire adressé de Poros aux Représentants des trois Cours alliées le 11 Octobre, 1828, "celle qui donnerait à la conformation territoriale du nouvel Etat le double avantage de lui offrir sur le continent vis-à-vis des Turcs les moyens de se défendre, et d'établir une police sanitaire, serait la frontière qui, en partant des bases du Mont Olympe dans le Golfe de Salonique, suivrait le Mont Cassia et irait jusqu'à Metzoro, Connoco, Samarina, Gardiki, et Port Palermo sur la Mer Adriatique."

Parmi les raisons que Capodistria invoquait à l'appui de cette ligne était aussi la considération que, sans cette frontière, "on livrerait aux Turcs des provinces où les Grecs composent la partie la plus nombreuse et la plus utile de leur population. Un grand nombre d'entre eux sont déjà dans les rangs de ceux qui ont porté les armes depuis huit ans en Grèce."

Telles sont les propres expressions de Capodistria qui écrivait des vérités incontestables, car toutes ces contrées sont Grecques, bien qu'elles s'étendent en Epire au delà de la Vallée de Kalama, plusieurs parties en furent couvertes de gloire pendant la longue lutte de l'indépendence par la bravoure et le patriotisme de leurs habitants. L'histoire de Souli et de Parga et celle de Chimara qui refusa de se soumettre même au terrible Ali Pacha, sont des témoignages irréfragables de ce que nous venons de dire.

Un Prince, dont les qualités éminentes étaient reconnues par l'Europe contemporaine, ayant été élu pour monter sur le trône du nouvel Etat, il déclina cette offre par la seule raison que les frontières assignées à la Grèce laissaient à la Turquie les contrées précitées, sans lesquelles il croyait que le nouveau royaume ne pourrait ni vivre ni se développer.

En effet, pour un Empire aussi vaste que la Turquie la possession de la Vallée de Kalama n'a pas la même importance que pour la Grèce, ce qui n'a pas échappé à la haute perspicacité de feu le Roi Léopold.

Quant à Janina qui, d'après le témoignage de Hahn (pp. 12 et 29, note 36) est le centre du commerce de l'Epire et son artère principale, il est de toute nécessité qu'il soit compris dans les concessions territoriales qui seront faites à la Grèce.

D'un autre côté, si le Royaume de Grèce doit avoir une signification politique, conformément aux vues du Congrès de Berlin, la Vallée de Kalama, le Zygos, et la Vallée de Penée, peuvent lui donner une frontière bien marquée et lui assurer une considération politique.

Les Commissaires Ottomans ne se sont pas bornés à signaler les dangers d'un soulèvement des Albanais, si leur prétendue nationalité était morcelée, par suite de l'exécution intégrale des décisions du Congrès de Berlin, mais ils ont aussi parlé de l'effervescence qui se serait déjà manifestée dans l'Albanie depuis qu'il a été question de la rectification des frontières.

La décision de l'Europe concernant la rectification de notre ligne frontière fut arrêtée le $\frac{24 \text{ Juin}}{6 \text{ Juillet}}$ 1878. Depuis cette date jusqu'aux derniers jours du mois de Janvier il s'écoula un intervalle de sept mois et, bien que cette décision fût déjà connue de tout le monde, il régnait en Epire un calme parfait, qui n'était interrompu que par l'envoi de canons, armes, et munitions de guerre que le Gouvernement Ottoman expédiait de temps à autre, tantôt à Preveza et tantôt à Mourto, pour mettre les forteresses en état de repousser toute attaque ou pour armer les habitants Albanais.

On n'y voyait aucun autre mouvement et encore moins une effervescence.

Mais lorsqu'au mois de Janvier les Commissaires Ottomans arrivèrent à Preveza et qu'ils faisaient surgir tous les jours de nouvelles difficultés pour retarder l'ouverture des séances de la Commission, c'est alors qu'on a signalé, en effet, un certain mouvement parmi les Beys Albanais que se rendaient à Preveza pour s'entendre avec les Commissaires de la Porte, provoquer des pétitions, &c.

Si par le mot "effervescence" les Délégués de la Porte ont entendu ce mouvement extraordinaire, ils ont sans doute oublié que ce sont eux qui l'avaient créé en convoquant les Albanais, en les excitant contre l'annexion, et en leur faisant signer dans ce sens des pétitions, sans reculer, au besoin, devant l'emploi de la force.

Cette effervescence artificielle était l'œuvre d'Abbedin Bey et de Moukhtar Pacha. La mention que les Commissaires de la Porte en font dans le procès-verbal prouve qu'ils espéraient influencer par ce moyen les décisions des Grandes Puissances. Ils comptaient tellement sur ce résultat qu'ils ont tâché d'associer à ces manifestations des

habitants Chrétiens, et il ne serait nullement étonnant si les autorités Ottomanes, grâce aux moyens dont elles disposent, faisaient signer ainsi à des Chrétiens des pétitions contenant la déclaration qu'ils ne peuvent être heureux que sous le Gouvernement Ottoman.

Espérons que l'Europe, qui est avertie de ces manœuvres, les appréciera à leur juste valeur.

Athènes, le $\frac{31 \text{ Mars}}{6 \text{ Avril}}$ 1879.

No. 409.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 35.)
(Telegraphic.) *Baveno, April* 16, 1879.

FOLLOWING figures have been received from Mr. Macdonell dated to-day :—

"Italian Government approve proposed appointment of Aleko Pasha to Roumelia. Italian journals think his Bulgarian nationality may eventually give rise to difficulties."

No. 410.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 336.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 16, 1879.

AUSTRIAN Ambassador came to me this morning. He says that the delay in the signature of the Convention, now that all discussion was closed, and the instrument had been accepted by both parties, after four months of negotiations, showed such want of consideration towards his Emperor, and a forgetfulness of the rule of conduct [? observed] between States, that he had no means of prolonging the patience of his Sovereign and Government, and he should be obliged to quit Constantinople without making any further remark, and without taking leave of the Sultan or his Ministers.

I sent Sir A. Sandison to the Palace to inform the Sultan, who replied that he could not consent to signature unless all the Protocols were confirmed by his Ministers, but he requested Sir A. Sandison to go at once to the Porte and acquaint Grand Vizier with my message.

Meanwhile I had myself given it to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who said that Council of Ministers had been convened to an Extraordinary Council, and were at that moment engaged in going over the Protocols. He said their confirmation was a mere matter of form, and he besought me to prevent Austrian Ambassador from taking the step which he appeared to meditate.

I trust that the Ambassador's object in threatening to leave will be attained by my acquainting the Sultan and his Ministers with it, which I did at his Excellency's request.

No. 411.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 17.)

(No. ? .)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 16, 1879.

I HAVE received following telegram from Vice-Consul at Philippopolis :—

"A review of the members of the Gymnasium of Tatar-Bazardjik, numbering between 9,000 and 10,000 men, took place to-day in that town. Skobeleff left this morning to attend at the review."

No. 412.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 336.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 16, 1879.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informed me to-day that Porte, while grateful for the offer of the good offices of Her Majesty's Government with regard to Greek question, was unable to consent to an extension of the line of frontier which it had been prepared to cede to Greece. This is the line telegraphed in my telegram No. 216.

No. 413.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 146.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 17, 1879.

LORD DONOUGHMORE telegraphs that Russian troops are being withdrawn from Rhodope. An encounter took place on Saturday near Hasskeui between Bulgarians and Turks. Yesterday a review was held at Tatar-Bazardjik under General Skobeleff of Gymnastic Society; similar reviews are to be held elsewhere, but the great gathering at Philippopolis is said to be given up.

No. 414.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 74.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, April* 17, 1879.

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs says he shall probably soon propose to the Powers to exercise mediation in the Greek question by means of a Conference at Constantinople of the resident Ambassadors.

No. 415.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 17, 1879.

WE have received Circular from Russia consenting that Boundary Commission shall decide by majority vote questions of detail but not questions of principle. I have asked for closer definition, especially whether the determination of the several points on which frontier is to go north of watershed, in order that the Sultan may be enabled to provide for defence of Balkans, is to be looked on as question of principle or question of detail.

No. 416.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 557.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 17, 1879.

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me this day to speak to me about the proposed new loan to be issued by the Porte.

I informed his Excellency that if the consent of the bondholders affected by the scheme was obtained, and if the conditions under which the Commissioners for the Management of the Customs Revenues were to act seemed unobjectionable, Her Majesty's Government were ready to appoint Commissioners. I said, however, that we could hardly take this step alone until we had received a definite expression of the intentions of the French Government in the matter. The question was now before them, and they had not as yet given us any answer.

At the same time I repeated to Mussurus Pasha what I had observed before, that we

should accompany our consent to make any such appointment by a distinct explanation that we were not guaranteeing in any sense the interest of any loan that might be made, nor were we pledging ourselves to use coercive measures against the Turkish Government in respect of any administrative engagements into which they might enter.

His Excellency seemed to fear that the Ottoman Bank were not sincere in the negotiations they were carrying forward; that they were afraid of compromising securities for moneys recently advanced by handing over the custom-houses in the manner proposed in the published scheme, and that they did not intend to bring the loan forward. His apprehension still was that unless some measure could be taken to reduce the paper money, a revolution in Constantinople might be the consequence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 417.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 238 A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 17, 1879.*

THE Austro-Hungarian Ambassador asked me to-day what in my judgment was the present position of the question of the mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia. I said I did not think that it was now practically under discussion. Many difficulties had arisen on all sides in respect to it, and the abatement of the interest of Russia in it was very remarkable.

At least one of the causes of the failure of the scheme appeared to lie in the fact that it had never been understood in the same sense by some of the Powers principally concerned. Russia had always made it an essential point that the Turkish contingent should be excluded. England and Austria had always insisted that it should be included, and as soon as Russia ascertained this to be the fact she ceased to press the idea.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 418.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 33. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, April 1, 1879.*

I HAVE incidentally reported in a former despatch that Mgr. Melchisedeghian, the Roman Catholic Armenian Archbishop at Erzeroum, had lately consecrated a church at Kars and a Bishop at Artwin. He was everywhere received by the Russian authorities with becoming attention and honours.

I now hear that General Komaroff informed the newly consecrated Bishop of Artwin that, as the Grand Duke Michael was shortly expected at Batoum, it was a suitable opportunity for the Armenian community to present any demands they had to make, and added that he had been reprimanded by the Grand Duke for having allowed a foreign Prelate to enter Russia and make consecrations without special authority.

The General warned the Bishop of Artwin that he was no longer permitted to render his accounts, as he had done on the present occasion, to Prelates residing in Turkey, but that he would henceforth have to submit six-monthly accounts of the income and expenditure of his See to the Russian Government, and that he could correspond with Rome, with which the Cabinet of St. Petersburgh was negotiating a Concordat, but not with Constantinople.

He ended by hinting that, as the Russians considered there was no difference between the Orthodox and Roman Catholic creeds, the Armenians themselves should hold the same view on the subject.

The Armenian community at Batoum intend to ask from the Grand Duke the following favours:—

1. Temporary exoneration from taxation in order to recover from the damages sustained during the last war.

2. Permission, which has been hitherto withheld, to erect buildings at Batoum, where they are very scarce, and command exaggerated rents.

3. Admittance free of dues in the inland districts of the goods now stored at Batoum.

4. Right of being represented in the local Government and in the different administrations in the town.

The religious question is to be dealt with by the ecclesiastical authorities.

My correspondent, who is himself an Armenian, cannot help saying, "We were happier under the Turks in time of war than we are now."

Rifki Effendi, the Ottoman Consul-General at Batoum, has departed yesterday to take possession of his post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 419.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 34. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, April 2, 1879.*

I HAVE received from different sources at Erzeroum the following information:—

Tranquillity prevails on the Russian frontier and in Central Kurdistan, but the Kurds in the neighbourhood of Van are since some time fighting between themselves and pillaging each other.

The handing over of Khotour to Persia seems to have increased these internal feuds. Hitherto the Turkish troops served as a barrier between the contending parties, and repressed outbreaks.

No special cases of outrages on the neighbouring populations have been reported to me; but their position must be far from enviable.

Great discontent seems to prevail at Erzeroum owing to the promised reforms having not yet had a beginning of execution; and there seems to be no faith in efficacious reforms being carried out by the Turks alone.

The Armenians who had been prevented last year by persuasion or promises to cross the frontier are again talking of emigrating in the spring.

The condition of the population at large is described as being most miserable. The armies consumed all that was to be had; it is true that such of the farmers who had produce to sell to the Russians received roubles, but it would seem that very few own land in the plains of Erzeroum, most of it is in the hands of wealthy inhabitants of the town, and the daily labourers, who had nothing to sell, are in worse poverty than a year ago. I understand that the American missionaries are helping with food some 300 families.

Under these circumstances the recent decision adopted by the Porte with regard to the caïmé has been a terrible blow to the poorer classes in Anatolia. Protests have been sent to Constantinople from Erzeroum, Sivas, Tsanghire, and Tokat, but not from Trebizond, which is no less affected by the measure.

The populations in the provinces are liable to a higher loss than the inhabitants of the capital. Caïmés are no longer accepted in the bazaars, and the rate of exchange, owing to the greed of street sarafs, is from 15 to 20 per cent. lower than at Constantinople.

The worst feature of the case is that poor people, and there are many, who contracted debts in caïmés, shall have to reimburse them in silver coin at a ruinous discount.

In spite of the difficulty of travelling in winter, many Mussulman emigrants from Kars have crossed the Turkish frontier, after having disposed of their property at advantageous conditions.

The population of that town was of about 5,000 families, 1,000 of which only are Christians. It is reckoned that nearly half the Mussulman population has already emigrated to Turkey, and that the remainder will follow in the spring, whether they obtain or not good terms for their property. They cannot make up their minds to live under the Russian rule.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 420.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 33. Political.)

Canea, Crete, April 4, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAD yesterday the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram of the previous day, informing me that a summary of my despatch No. 16 had been communicated to the Porte, and that the Minister for Foreign Affairs had informed Mr. Malet that he would request that the question regarding the Customs revenue should be settled in conformity with the terms of the engagement entered into.

It is of the utmost moment that the promised concession should be made without loss of time, as the ready money which the Custom-house could furnish would be an invaluable resource for meeting the most pressing necessities of the Government, than which none is more urgent than the payment of the gendarmes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 421.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 34. Political.)

Canea, Crete, April 6, 1879.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 32 of the 31st ultimo I had the honour to point out to your Lordship that there was great danger lest the gendarmes would begin to desert as soon as their salaries fell into arrears. The evil I anticipated is being more than realized. A party of Mussulman zaptiehs belonging to the district of Milopotamos, near Rethymo, went to the Kaimakam a few days ago to demand the payment of their salaries. As no money was forthcoming, they retired to a short distance and began firing into his house. No notice seems to have been taken of their conduct.

The only hope of preserving order in the country lies in the formation of an efficient police, and this is why the Vali is so anxious to lay his hands on the half of the customs duties promised last October by the Porte. Much of the blame attaching to the shortcomings of the new Administration is laid at the door of the Vali himself, who is accused of want of energy. His Excellency does not seem to be supported by the Porte, which pays no heed to his demands, and thus his rule is lacking in the vigour which a consciousness of support, and, above all, the means of paying his way, would impart to it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 422.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 299.)

Constantinople, April 6, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Acting Consul Calvert respecting the arming of the population of Eastern Roumelia by the Russians, the withdrawal of the Russian detachment from Mustafa-Pasha, and the exodus of the Christian population from that place.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 422.

Acting Consul Calvert to Mr. Malet.

Adrianople, April 3, 1879.

Sir,

I AM informed by a trustworthy person who has just arrived here that the Russian authorities at Harmanli are daily distributing old Russian Krinka rifles to the Bulgarian

population in that neighbourhood. On Saturday last, the 29th ultimo, when my informant reached Harmanli, sixty were given to the inhabitants of Gudeler, fifty to those of Bunartchova, and fifty to Sallari. On the Monday following, when he left, Bulgarians had arrived from the following villages, with carts, in which to bring away the arms that were destined for them: Obroukli, Karabunar, Hassirli, Sulakioi, and Alvandereh.

From another source—a Bulgarian from Bunardja—I learn that seventy rifles (said by him to be Martini-Henrys) were distributed on the 27th ultimo to the young men of that village, which is situated within and close to the limits of Eastern Roumelia, north-west from Adrianople. The same person further states that, whereas during last year's enrolment for the Bulgarian militia only seven men were drawn from Bunardja, all the able-bodied male population are now called upon to serve, in case of need, in the "National Army." He adds that the same principle is being inculcated by Russian officers lately arrived in the Roumelian portion of the district of Mustafa Pasha.

According to the first-mentioned informant, no Bulgarian artillery was at Harmanli, as had been reported. The Russians had, at the above dates (29th ultimo and 1st instant), two field batteries there and three at Karabunar.

A Bulgarian field battery was dispatched from Yeni-Zaghra to Philippopolis on the 1st instant.

The Russian detachment reported in my despatch No. 25 of the 24th ultimo as being still at the Mustafa-Pasha Station was withdrawn shortly after that date. The Commandant delayed his departure for some days longer in order to watch the emigration movement there; but that movement being now terminated, he also has left.

During several weeks the Christians of Mustafa-Pasha (the great majority of whom are Bulgarians) had wavered between the conflicting influences of fear, instilled into their minds by the Commandant and his agents, and of natural reluctance to abandon their hearths and homes. The latter feeling had, to all appearance, definitely prevailed, when new Russian pressure was applied, and after the movement had ceased everywhere else a general exodus supervened. With the exception of but forty families, the whole of the Christian inhabitants, Greeks and Bulgarians alike, amounting to 1,500 or 1,600 families (out of a total population of 2,500), emigrated in a body. There is reason to believe that the emigrants were chiefly actuated by the fear that the strategical importance of Mustafa-Pasha (owing to the bridge over that part of the Maritza) would cause it to become a centre of conflict in the event of a hostile opposition to the occupation of Eastern Roumelia by the Turks.

A reflux has, however, begun to set in, and twenty-five families have already returned. Meanwhile the abandoned houses are most scrupulously protected by the Turkish authorities, and are made over intact to the owners who return.

All accounts agree in representing the advent of these immigrants into Eastern Roumelia as being extremely distasteful to their brethren there, who are not at all disposed to cede to them the lands and property abandoned by the Turks and already appropriated by themselves. They sourly suggest that their unwelcome guests should be content to settle on the waste lands of the country. The immigrants, on the other hand, are suffering great privations, and it is the opinion of persons qualified to judge that, if the Roumelian question is peaceably settled, the great majority will return to their homes upon the withdrawal of the Russian army and its attendant moral and material influences.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 423.

M. Gennadius to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 18.)

April 17, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of four telegrams which I have received within the last few days from M. Delyanni, and which sufficiently explain the character and origin of the fictitious Albanian agitation and of the pretended deputation from Epirus.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. GENNADIUS.

Inclosure in No. 423.

Telegrams addressed by M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.

(Télégraphique.) *Athènes, le 30 Mars*, 1879.

JE m'empresse de vous communiquer ci-dessus un télégramme que je viens d'expédier au Chargé d'Affaires Hellénique à Rome :—

"Nous venons de nous informer officieusement que M. de Goubernati a rapporté au Gouvernement Italien que l'opinion publique en Epire repousse l'annexion à la Grèce et qu'il est impossible d'être réalisé sans de grands désastres, les Albanais en Epire étant décidés à opposer une résistance armée. M. de Goubernati s'est rendu à Preveza quelques semaines après la réunion des Commissaires, et il y est resté quelques jours seulement. Pendant son court séjour il n'a fait que se mettre en relations très-suivies avec les Albanais qu'Abbedin Bey et Moukhtar Pacha avaient convoqués à Preveza, en recevant et rendant leurs visites. S'il a rapporté à son Gouvernement les protêts et les menaces factices des Albanais, on n'a rien à dire ; mais s'il se proposait de faire connaître au Gouvernement l'opinion publique, nous pensons qu'il a manqué à son but en regardant comme opinion publique les renseignements qu'il a reçu de quelques Albanais convoqués exprès à Preveza par Abbedin Bey et Moukhtar Pacha. Comme les rapports de M. Goubernati, s'ils sont écrits dans ce sens, peuvent nuire à nos intérêts, si le Gouvernement regardait leur contenu comme l'expression de l'opinion publique des habitants de l'Epire, veuillez voir M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, et tâchez de lui faire ressortir la valeur véritable des Rapports que le Consul d'Italie sus-mentionné lui a soumis.

(Télégraphique.) *Athènes, le 6 Avril*, 1879.

D'après mes renseignements de Corfou et de Preveza, c'est la Porte qui a payé les dépenses du voyage des prétendus Délégués qui sont arrivés dernièrement à Rome et vont continuer leur tournée. La Caisse de la douane à Prevoza leur a fait l'avance de £ T. 300 dans ce but.

(Télégraphique.) *Athènes, le 12 Avril*, 1879.

Je m'empresse de vous communiquer le télégramme suivant que j'ai expédié à la Légation Royale à Rome :—

"Un télégramme de l'Agence Havas annonce l'arrivée à Rome de la prétendue députation Albanaise et la remise d'une pétition dans laquelle il est dit que les Albanais ne se soumettrons jamais à la domination de la Grèce, qui n'a aucun droit sur l'Albanie ; et que si la politique cédait une portion de l'Albanie, ils sont décidés à la défendre à l'entrance et ne laisser à la Grèce qu'un vaste champ de carnage. Nous ne voulons pas examiner l'origine de cette députation, ni relever le fait qu'un de ses membres, Abdoul Bey, est cousin du Ministre de Turquie à Rome, ce qui indique clairement sous quelles inspirations elle agit. Mais nous croyons devoir observer que la Grèce n'a jamais convoité des contrées Albanaises. Les contrées désignées par le Congrès pour être annexées à la Grèce ne sont point Albanaises ; l'Epire ayant été de tout temps un pays éminemment Grec. Vis-à-vis de la Turquie la Grèce poursuit l'exécution du Protocole No. 13, dont les stipulations ont été inspirées à l'Europe par les raisons d'un intérêt général. Quant aux Albanais, la Grèce ne leur reconnaît aucun droit de revendiquer aucun pays aussi Grèc que l'Epire, comme il est amplement prouvé par les mémoires envoyés par le dernier courrier. D'ailleurs, les conditions éthnologiques de l'Epire sont si bien établies, que personne ne saurait méconnaître son caractère Hellénique. J'ajouterai que si les Albanais tiennent à sauvegarder leur nationalité, les Grecs aussi ne permettrons jamais qu'on touche aux contrées qui leur appartiennent, et sont également résolus de repousser par tous les moyens toute convoitise et toute aggression. Vous êtes priés de porter le contenu du présent télégramme à la connaissance de son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

(Télégraphique.) *Athènes, le 16 Avril*, 1879.

Le Président du Conseil des Ministres d'Italie a assuré notre Chargé d'Affaires à Rome que les prétendus Délégués Albanais n'ont remis au Gouvernement Italien aucun document, et que celui-ci n'a donné aucune promesse, étant décidé de conformer son attitude à celui des autres Puissances.

No. 424.

Count Karolyi to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 18.)

(Private and Confidential.)

My dear Lord Salisbury, 18, *Belgrave Square, April* 17, 1879.

IN order to make you thoroughly acquainted with our standpoint about the situation, with our information respecting the pending negotiations at St. Petersburgh, and also with the securities, according to our opinion, which both Russia and Turkey ought to give in case the mixed occupation should be given up definitively, I do not fail to transmit to you the inclosed two telegrams which partly formed the subject of our conversation to-day.

Believe me, &c.

(Signed) LOUIS KAROLYI.

Inclosure 1 in No. 424.

Count Andrassy to Count Karolyi.

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 15, 1879.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch relating to your conversation with Lord Salisbury on the mixed occupation scheme. I cannot quite admit the force of his Lordship's arguments. It would, for example, in spite of the abstention of Germany, not be impossible to obtain their consent to send a German officer as Commander-in-chief in order to obviate the necessity of having separate districts occupied by the separate contingents. We do not, however, absolutely maintain the mixed occupation scheme, and we should acquiesce in any other mode of transition, as long only as it is perfectly clear that the evacuation shall take place at the time fixed, and that disorders, which would give the Russians a pretext for returning, are certain to be avoided. Therefore, it seems necessary to me, before the scheme of an European occupation is given up, to make sure at Constantinople that the Porte has the necessary troops at its disposal, and that it consents to have them accompanied by European Commissioners. On the other hand, Russia would have to give perfect security that she does not call in question the rights which, for certain eventualities, have been conceded to the Porte in respect to Eastern Roumelia, and that she will accept the decisions of the majority of the European Commission.

Before having a satisfactory answer to these questions, it appears to us premature to let the mixed occupation drop.

Your Excellency will be pleased to communicate the above to Lord Salisbury, and to tell him that I should like soon to see clear in the matter, because we must regulate our utterances at Constantinople accordingly. We have received from there as well as from Eastern Roumelia inquiries as to whether the mixed occupation is given up or not. An uncertainty in this respect, especially in view of the time for evacuation being so near at hand, cannot but have a prejudicial effect.

Inclosure 2 in No. 424.

Count Andrassy to Count Karolyi.

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 15, 1879.

BARON LANGENAU has just telegraphed to me as follows :—

"Count Schouvaloff has been to see me, and confirms the bases of the negotiations that are proceeding here as they appear in several of my preceding telegrams. These bases are accepted in principle by both sides. However, Russia still adheres to two counter propositions which she has made, viz. :—

"1. That the Turks shall not occupy any point in Eastern Roumelia before the evacuation of that province, as well as of Bulgaria by the Russian troops, has been completed.

"2. That the Russian officers in the ranks of the Eastern Roumelian militia shall retain their posts till the time of evacuation.

"The English Government accepts, but under the express condition that the decisions of the European Delimitation Commission of the Balkans shall be arrived at by the vote of the majority.

"The Russian Government do not accept this condition. Count Schouvaloff is also opposed to it. They admit the principle of decision by majority, but only after an unanimous agreement has been arrived at in respect to the frontier.

"The English answer hereto is still awaited, the delay being probably occasioned by the Easter holidays."

No. 425.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 18.)

(No. 338.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 17, 1879.

I SAW Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning. He told me that Grand Vizier had been with the Sultan over night, and was with His Majesty again to-day, that if his Highness could not induce the Sultan to authorize the signature of the Austrian Convention he intended to resign, and offer at the same time resignation of Minister for Foreign Affairs.

On returning home, I found a message from the Sultan requesting me to come at once to the Palace. There were assembled the Grand Vizier, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for War, and Minister of Justice.

Grand Vizier said to me that His Majesty experienced great difficulty in authorizing the signature of the Convention. Telegrams continued to arrive saying that signature would be abortive for the revolted population, who were resolved to die sooner than permit the passage of Austrian troops. When the Convention was signed it would be the duty of the Turkish troops to prevent rebellion, but that His Majesty could not bring himself to give orders, which would cause the blood of his subjects to be shed; but it was perfectly certain that the troops would not obey such orders if they were given.

The Sultan would then be accused of not fulfilling his obligations under the Treaty, and instead of the friendly feelings between him and Austria, which were held out as the principal motive for its conclusion, fresh complications and further estrangement would be the result.

Under these circumstances, His Majesty proposed to cede to Austria all the territory to the river Lim, to be held on the same conditions as she holds Bosnia and Herzegovina, provided that she would renounce right of entering the rest of the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar. Turkish Government would be all withdrawn beyond the Lim; another Austrian Administration would be identic up to that frontier. His Highness requested me to use my good offices to induce Austrian Ambassador to consider this solution, and he asked me to telegraph it to Her Majesty's Government.

I said that from all the provinces which have been ceded similar threatening telegrams have arrived, and I felt sure that when the populations knew that it was the will of the Sultan that they should accept the Convention opposition would cease, as it had in the case of Podgoritza, the Lazis, &c. I reiterated all the arguments I had at command for the conclusion of the Convention as it stood, and I pointed out that the proposal now made was an infringement on the Treaty of Berlin, which was a most dangerous precedent for Turkey. I consented to inform Count Zichy of the proposal, but I requested to see His Majesty, in order that I might tell him of the dangers which he was incurring.

The Ministers then went to the Sultan. On returning, the Grand Vizier said that His Majesty was too fatigued to see me, and that he requested me to say nothing about what had passed, but to come to see him to-morrow at 3 o'clock.

I asked the motive for this sudden change, and the Grand Vizier replied that His Majesty would consider further before asking me to make proposal, and that possibly he might come to the conclusion that it was better to sign the Convention as it stood.

I shall inform Count Zichy of what has passed.

No. 426.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 18.)

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April* 17, 1879.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 25, I caused inquiry to be made of M. de Giers how Russian Government propose to distinguish between questions of principle and questions of detail, and more especially whether they will admit majority principle in deciding questions as to where and how far line of frontier may be deviated from the main chain of the Balkans, in order to ensure proper defensive frontier secured to Turkey by the Treaty of Berlin.

I have received a private note from M. de Giers, stating that Russian Government will admit majority principle for deciding this question of the Balkan frontier, "provided the Commission keeps nothing in view but the tactical defensive frontier, as indicated by the crest of the mountains and the watershed, and that it does not infringe rule established by the Treaty of Berlin, that the Turks cannot establish themselves in places inhabited by Bulgarians."

If these two conditions are observed, the Russian Government will consent that the Commission should decide, by a majority, the zone and the points where Turkish garrisons may establish themselves.

No. 427.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tirnovo, April* 18, 1879.

I HAVE returned this evening from Constantinople.

Now Special Assembly for the choice of Prince will be entirely elective, three members for every 10,000 males; elections have already commenced. The Assembly will meet on the 27th instant, and will proceed immediately to elect a Prince. The work of the present Assembly is already nearly finished.

No. 428.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 18.)

(No. 339.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 18, 1879.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs came to me yesterday evening, and said to me that he was desired by Sultan to request me to make a proposal to the Austrian Ambassador, which had been explained to me in the afternoon, and send the answer to his Excellency, who would return to the Palace and await it. I replied that I regretted that the request was not made by the Sultan in person, as I should have made the condition of my accepting the mission a promise on the part of His Majesty that, if I failed, the Convention, as it stood, should be signed. His Excellency replied that, of course, he was not able to go so far as to accept this condition, but he would mention it to His Majesty. I saw Austrian Ambassador later, who, having had time to consider proposal since I had seen his Excellency in the afternoon, and being aware that I was coming for an answer, had prepared in writing a proposal absolutely refusing to entertain proposition in any way, and demanding that Convention should be signed to-day. I transmitted it at once to the Minister for Foreign Affairs at the Palace.

No. 429.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, April* 17, 1879.

IMPERIAL Commissioners left Scutari this morning for Monastir. They are to visit the whole of the North-East of Albania, to report on its political state.

No. 430.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, April 18, 1879.*

OFFICIAL information received that Albanians entering into Servian territory in force yesterday morning have, after severe engagement, taken Shumadia; troops retreating before them towards Nisch.

No. 431.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, April 18, 1879.*

WITH reference to my telegram of this day, name of town taken is Kurschumlie.

No. 432.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, April 18, 1879.*

GERMANY, having officially recognized independence of Servia since the 18th ultimo, in accordance with understanding arrived at between your Lordship and Prince Bismarck, German Chargé d'Affaires has expressed surprise at delay on the part of Her Majesty's Government, and French Ministers have expressed themselves in a similar sense.

No. 433.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 30.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 18, 1879, 11·55 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 44, Russian answer not easy to understand. What is meant by "the tactical defensive frontier indicated by the mountains and the watershed?" A tactical question can only be solved by strategical considerations. Its solution cannot be indicated by a watershed.

Again, the Treaty of Berlin does not contain a word about the Turks not establishing themselves in places inhabited by Bulgarians.

Again, what we ask is, that a majority may decide where the watershed may be overstepped northward for strategical reasons. We do not ask that a majority shall decide the spots on which the Turk may place his garrisons in that part of the frontier where the watershed is not overstepped.

That is not a question for the Commission at all, but only for the Porte.

No. 434.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 31.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 18, 1879, midnight.*

I FIND Schouvaloff has been giving the Austrians very inaccurate information about our negotiation. I have therefore given Karolyi substance of my telegrams to you, Nos. 19 and 20.

No. 435.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Count Karolyi.

(Private.)
My dear Count Karolyi, *Hatfield, April 18, 1879.*

I AM very much obliged to you for your letter, and for the two telegrams it incloses. Count Schouvaloff's Report is scarcely accurate. I send you inclosed a copy of my telegrams to Lord Dufferin sent several days ago.

It is the latest instruction upon the subject; and you will see from it that in several points Count Schouvaloff has represented (no doubt by inadvertence) the matter as more favourable to his views than is precisely the case.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

Inclosure in No. 435.

Paraphrase of Telegrams to the Earl of Dufferin of April 18, 1879.

(Most Confidential.)

WE cannot consent to change any of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, but we wish to avoid a collision as much as the Russian Government. We therefore think that the Turks might be asked to abstain from sending any military force to any place in the province, even to Bourgas, until the Russians had evacuated it under the Treaty. We would advise them to promise this, and we believe they would agree. Under the Treaty their occupation of Bourgas must not extend inland, because they occupy it as a frontier. It might be arranged also that they should abstain from sending garrisons to the land frontiers till those frontiers had been marked out, if a reasonable time were limited for that delimitation, and if the Russian Government would consent to the decision of contraverted points by a majority vote. But the conduct of the Turks must be regulated by that of the Roumeliotes. If the inhabitants of Roumelia break out into insurrection against the Treaty, we cannot ask the Turks to sit still and allow the insurrection to succeed.

I request your Excellency to press upon Count Schouvaloff the necessity of agreeing to the appointment of a Governor. Anarchy is certain if no Governor is appointed. If Russia agrees to the appointment of either Rustem or Aleko, we will consent that the Commission shall be prolonged for a year; and that the Governor shall not, during that time, make use of his Treaty power to summon Turkish troops into the interior of the province, without sanction of the majority of the Commission [this had already been proposed by Turkey in the Circular].

If Russia will further consent that the Delimitation Commission shall complete its work this year, and for that purpose shall decide all disputed points by a majority, we will advise the Turks not to occupy Bourgas till the Russians have left it according to the Treaty, and not to occupy the land frontiers till the Commission has completed its work.

(Second Telegram.)

I HAVE received from your Excellency Todleben's proposal that officers of the militia shall be replaced gradually, not suddenly. It seems to me judicious. The sudden dismissal of all the officers must produce disorder in the militia.

No. 436.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 212.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April 18, 1879.*

IT is not easy to understand the reply returned by M. de Giers to your Excellency's inquiry whether the Russian Government propose to admit the majority principle in deciding questions as to where and how far deviation from the main chain of the Balkans may be sanctioned in order to secure to Turkey a proper defensive frontier.

M. de Giers states that his Government will admit this principle for deciding the question of the Balkan frontier, provided the Delimitation Commission keeps nothing in

view but the tactical defensive frontier, as indicated by the crest of the mountains and the watershed, and that it does not infringe the rule, established by the Treaty of Berlin, that the Turks cannot establish themselves in places inhabited by Bulgarians.

A tactical question can only be solved by strategical considerations, the solution of which cannot be indicated by a watershed.

I have also to observe that the Treaty of Berlin does not contain one word which would justify the assertion that the Turks are prohibited from establishing themselves in the same localities as the Bulgarians.

Her Majesty's Government do not ask that the majority shall decide the spots in which the Turkish Government shall be allowed to establish their garrisons in that part of the frontier where the watershed is not overstepped, which is not a question within the competency of the Commission to discuss at all, but should be left altogether to the discretion of the Porte.

The point which Her Majesty's Government do desire should be decided by the majority of the Commission is where it may be necessary, for strategical reasons, that the watershed should be overstepped northwards.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 437.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, April* 18, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a telegram addressed to your Excellency by the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs, which you were good enough to communicate to me on the 15th instant, and in which it is announced that His Imperial Majesty the Sultan has been pleased to nominate his Excellency Aleko Pasha to be Governor-General of the Province of Eastern Roumelia in place of Rustem Pasha.

I have now the honour to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government do, for their part, as required by Article XVII of the Treaty of Berlin, signify their assent to the above nomination.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 438.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 19.)

(No. 46. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, March* 19, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that Prince Nicholas has evidently decided not to tolerate, for some time to come, a Turkish Consul at Podgoritza, and His Highness is supported in this resolve by both the Russian and Austrian Representatives.

However, as a proof that Montenegro wishes to cultivate good relations with Turkey, Prince Nicholas will overlook the silence with which the Sultan treated his telegram, and will now acquaint the Porte, through Prince Labanoff, that he wishes to enter into continuous and friendly intercourse with Turkey. It is financial exigencies which oblige Montenegro to have recourse to Russia, and to solicit the permission of the Emperor for his Ambassador to represent the Principality at Constantinople.

Prince Nicholas trusts that this further advance on his part will secure him the honour of the expected reply from the Sultan.

I have been given to understand that the Voïvoda Radonich will address a private letter to Anli Bey, the second Imperial Commissioner at Scutari, explaining that, having learnt from me the impression produced on the Turkish authorities by the retirement of Osman Bey from Podgoritza, he could assure him the Montenegrin Government had ordered the Bey's withdrawal merely for local and administrative reasons, and not with a wish to wound in the slightest degree Turkish susceptibilities.

I recommend the acceptance of the above concessions, for I am not at all likely to obtain any others, and the Porte ought to avail itself of the first opportunity for opening direct relations with Montenegro.

I have reported the foregoing to Mr. Malet, and informed him that I will await at Cettigné his reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 439.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 19.)

(No. 49. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, March* 20, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 46, Political, of yesterday's date, I venture to suggest that the Turkish Government should avail itself of the proposal to be made through the Turkish Government only to the extent of enabling it, without further delay, to commence its direct diplomatic relations with Montenegro. The immediate dispatch to Cettigné of a Turkish Agent could be represented as being more advantageous for both Governments, and as rendering unnecessary the step which would make the Principality appear to have accepted for its interests abroad the protection of a foreign Power.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 440.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 19.)

(No. 49. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, March* 22, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that, in reply to a communication from Mr. Malet, I have informed him that the Porte is losing its time in attempting to obtain the consent of Montenegro to the return of Osman Bey to Podgoritza, where this officer lately occupied the position of Military and Civil Governor; besides, most of the Mahommedan inhabitants of that town, owing to the machinations of the Turkish authorities, have returned to Scutari.

I earnestly advise that the Turkish Government should separate itself from the intrigues and bugbears created by its functionaries of the Scutari Vilayet, for, I am convinced, it would then be able to inaugurate most amicable relations through a Representative at the Montenegrin Court.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 441.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 19.)

(No. 51. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettigné, March* 29, 1879.

ACTING upon Mr. Malet's telegrams of the 27th and 28th instant, I once more used my best endeavours to induce Prince Nicholas to accredit a Representative to the Sublime Porte, and I have obtained from His Highness a promise to again take the matter under his consideration, and let me known in a few days his decision.

I have no doubt that it is intended to refer for instructions on the subject to the Russian Government.

As there are several affairs of local importance to smooth over between the Turkish and Montenegrin authorities, I shall return to-morrow for the purpose to Scutari.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 442.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 19.)

(No. 57. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, April 7, 1879.*

ABOUT a month ago a Lieutenant of Redifs was shot dead in the neighbourhood of Alessio by a Roman Catholic mountaineer belonging to the tribe of Skrelli.

The lands in the district of Alessio are principally held by mountain tribes, which cultivate them with considerable care, and inhabit them when the winter snows drive them and their herds down to the plains.

The murder was said to have been provoked through the officer having beaten, or threatened to beat, the mountaineer in the market-place of Alessio. Whether this was so or not, the authorities were bound to endeavour to seize the culprit, and can only be criticized for the manner in which they have attempted to do it.

Unfortunately, murders, or blood feuds, as they can generally be called, are of so frequent and unnoticed occurrence here, and are even in a way legalized through the acknowledgment of the authorities of the mountain laws governing such affairs, that the energy of Hussein Pasha in dispatching three battalions and two pieces of artillery to Alessio, under the command of Osman Bey, was most unexpected.

In a few days it was ascertained that not only the murderer of the Redif officer was sought for, but also that all the Roman Catholic tribes were to be called upon to deliver up the rifles which had been distributed to them at the commencement of the Turco-Montenegrin war; that any mountaineer known to have been engaged in a blood feud was to be arrested; and that the arrears of land tax, which had never been enforced, were to be paid.

The Chiefs of the Skrelli, and all the relatives of the murderer who had not already escaped, were arrested and imprisoned, and one or two farmsteads, belonging to perpetrators of blood feuds, were destroyed.

These measures have for the present resulted in the imprisonment here and at Alessio of about 300 mountaineers, and in the delivery to the authorities of a certain number of Enfield, Snider, and Martini-Peabody rifles by the Skrelli and some of the peasants of the Zadrima and of the villages around Scutari.

I understand that Osman Bey has been threatening to use pressure also on the Clementi and the other clans, but, as yet, no action has been taken against these powerful tribes.

Whilst again justifying Hussein Pasha for wishing to secure the murderer of the officer, I am obliged to express the opinion that the manner in which he has tried to do so is most impolitic.

Until within the last two months the Roman Catholic tribes were, so to say, his spoilt children. As long as he hoped to prevent the delivery of Podgoritza to Montenegro, he lavished on them subsidies and favours, and made them otherwise understand the power attributed to their mountains. Now, an every-day occurrence—a murder—is suddenly made the excuse for depriving the mountaineers of what they consider the rewards bestowed upon them for their fidelity to the Turkish Government during three critical years. Otherwise, if it is only intended, say they, to punish the guilty, why should the numerous well-known Mahommedan assassins who walk the streets of Scutari be left untouched?

The Roman Catholic Albanians are now convinced that Hussein Pasha is anxious to show his co-religionists that if the Sultan's Government has been forced to make concessions to Christians in one direction, it has at all events the power to keep under respectful control those still within its jurisdiction. They openly declare that they will temporize with the authorities until they can repair the mistake they made in not joining the risings of more far-seeing populations; and that it will be impossible for the Turks to deprive them of most of the rifles, by which they know their mountains have now become impregnable.

That these assertions are not quite vain boasts I am inclined to believe, because whilst I was in Montenegro I had frequent opportunities of ascertaining that many Albanian Chiefs came to the country evidently on political errands. I, however, am not quite certain that there is not an understanding between Prince Nicholas and the Austrian Minister at Cettigné regarding the proceedings of these Chiefs, for, otherwise, the very great jealousy felt by the Austro-Hungarian authorities in the slightest matter connected with foreign influence over the North Albanians would have given some sign by which their impressions could be judged.

From purely mountaineer sources a rumour frequently reaches me that help is not far off at hand from Austria, and I cannot refrain from admitting that each hour which prolongs my experience of the inability of Turkish officials to repair past errors, and to avail themselves of the many advantages still within reach of their Government, makes me feel more and more that this rich and lovely province, so close to the centres of civilization, ought to cease, at all costs, to be one of the most barbarous countries, not of Europe alone, but also of the whole world.

Reforms for this as well as the rest of the vilayets in Europe have been stipulated for in the Treaties of San Stefano, Berlin, and Constantinople, but it is to be hoped that they are not to be shaped on the model of past Ottoman improvements, and that something beyond the simple destruction of existing institutions is to be attempted.

I almost foresee that the present raid on the Roman Catholic mountaineers is to be put into circulation as the first instalment of the reforms which are to regenerate North Albania, and a prayer is to accompany it that the Turkish authorities are to be left free to exercise their judgment and action, otherwise, with foreign interference, failure is sure to result.

I earnestly urge that the natural but fatal jealousy of Turkish Pashas of the interposition of strangers in their administration should not be permitted to assist in bringing about a state of things which will inevitably lead to the prolongation of misgovernment in this province, and finally to the repetition of occurrences which have deprived them of their other possessions in Europe.

It will be no time lost to examine and study the many feudal customs, laws, and institutions still existing in this country, and to endeavour to build up with them (not without them) an administration which would be in unison with, rather than opposed to, the feelings of the inhabitants. The success which has crowned the efforts of the Princes of Montenegro, who have, out of a chaos of mountain clans similar to those of North Albania, in less than thirty years created a State which, as far as public safety and the contentment of its people are concerned, can compare favourably with the best governed countries in Europe, furnishes a beacon of hope which cannot be lost sight of.

The authorities here ought and must set about to put a stop to the murders which are a public scourge, but the large and real reforms which the people are so anxiously looking and hoping for must proceed from the Porte after mature consideration, and be ushered in under a more solemn guarantee than the apparent sudden caprice of a Governor who is only notorious from having successfully resisted for months, by endless intrigues, the positive instructions of his superiors.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 443.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 19.)

(No. 428.)

My Lord, *Paris, April 16, 1879.*

IN my despatch No. 419 of the 14th instant, I had the honour to report to your Lordship that I had informed M. Waddington that I was instructed to recommend the appointment of Aleko Pasha, as Governor of Eastern Roumelia, to the acceptance of the French Government.

M. Waddington told me this afternoon that it had been determined to send instructions to the French Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to announce that the French Government had no objection to the nomination of Aleko Pasha.

The Chargé d'Affaires would, however (M. Waddington told me), be directed to make at the same time a request to the Porte to find some other post for Rustem Pasha, and not to send him back to the Lebanon.

M. Waddington concluded by begging me to express to your Lordship his hope that the Government of Her Majesty would support the request of the French Government that Rustem Pasha might not return to Syria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 444.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 19.)

(No. 432.)

My Lord, *Paris, April 17, 1879.*

M. WADDINGTON told me this afternoon that in all probability he should very soon propose to the Powers to make the offer of mediation between Turkey and Greece, contemplated by the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

He should, he said, suggest that the mediation should be exercised by means of a conference of the resident Ambassadors at Constantinople, held in that capital.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 445.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 19.)

(No. 37.)

(Telegraphic.) *Baveno, April 18, 1879.*

M. DEPRETIS stated to me positively to-day at Monza that he had not promised support to the Albanian deputation, but had said the Italian Government was bound by the Treaty of Berlin.

His Excellency told me he was now expecting a deputation from Epirus to plead in a totally contrary sense. Believed the French Government was engaged in drawing up some fresh proposal, and he repeated opinion that the Congress concessions to Greece in Epirus could not be insisted on without risk of an insurrection, and that in lieu of them greater concessions should be made in Thessaly.

M. Depretis informed me he had just heard from Constantinople that the Sultan had refused his sanction to Convention with Austria respecting Novi-Bazar.

No. 446.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 19.)

(No. 61.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 18, 1879.*

NO Circular such as that alluded to in your telegram No. 13 has been communicated to Austrian Government by the Russian Ambassador, who says he has not received it.

I have expressed the hope that, when received, Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs will ask for definition in the same way as your Lordship.

No. 447.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 19.)

(No. 62.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 18, 1879.*

BARON ORCZY tells me that it is arranged that Montenegrin Frontier Commission shall meet at Cettinjé on the 25th.

I said that Ragusa would be better, so as to avoid giving the presidency to the Montenegrin Delegate, but he said Russia had been anxious for the meeting to be at the former place, and he seemed to look upon the question as settled.

I have informed Count Andrassy so, who is here.

No. 448.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 19.)

(No. 341.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 18, 1879.*

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs has written to me to say that the Sultan wishes me to come on Monday instead of to-day. To-night there is another Council at the Palace, with the object of coming to a final decision regarding Austrian Convention.

No. 449.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 19.)

(No. 342.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 18, 1879.*

I HAVE received following telegram from Consul at Aleppo, dated to-day:—

"Omer Pasha has been recalled. This measure is universally regretted, and in the interest of the Porte its annulment is greatly to be desired. Governor-General and Commission telegraphed to-day to Grand Vizier and Minister for Foreign Affairs requesting annulment of his recall. Italian Consul also telegraphed in the same sense to his Embassy."

No. 450.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 19.)

(No. 343.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 19, 1879.*

FOLLOWING from Consul at Philippopolis, dated 16th instant:—

"News was received yesterday by Bulgarian Committee here from Sophia, that invasion of Macedonia recommenced on the 13th instant by the entry into that province of three columns of Bulgarians."

No. 451.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 19.)

(No. 344.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 19, 1879.*

MR. FOSTER told me yesterday that the Minister of Finance had threatened the Galata bankers that if they would not make a further advance Government would find itself compelled to confiscate securities pledged for recent temporary advances made by these bankers.

No. 452.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 19.)

(No. 345.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 19, 1879.*

I HAVE received following telegram from Consul-General Palgrave, dated 18th:—

"The Special Assembly for the choice of a Prince has been summoned for the 27th instant; it will be ballot election. The elaboration of Organic Law is almost ended."

No. 453.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 19.)

(No. 346.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 19, 1879.

AUSTRIAN Ambassador has addressed a note to the Porte, dated to-day, saying that if the Convention is not signed Austria will enter on no further negotiations, but will act according to her interests. At the same time, she will announce that the Sultan has refused to execute Article XXV of the Treaty of Berlin.

No. 454.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 19.)

(No. 139.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 19, 1879.

I AM told that Aleko's nephew is now proposed by Russia as a candidate for Principality of Bulgaria.

No. 455.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 19.)

(No. .)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 19, 1879.

REUTER'S telegram reports a speech by Sir H. Layard declaring that Her Majesty's Government will insist on Article of the Berlin Treaty concerning occupation of the line of the Balkans [?] by Turkish troops. Is this correct? Such an abrupt announcement, unaccompanied by any modification or dilution, must necessarily renew effervescence in the province which had been subsiding.

No. 456.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 19.)

(No. 148.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 19, 1879.

PRINCE TZERETELEW has just called to say that if Aleko Pasha goes to Eastern Roumelia with the Commission and without Turkish troops he can guarantee that the Bulgarians will accept Treaty of Berlin, and not endeavour to annex themselves to the Principality.

He seems anxious, and the attack on the Emperor appears to frighten the Russians considerably.

I see the Sultan to-day; we are all anxious for news, as May is near.

No. 457.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tirnova, April* 18, 1879.

THE Austrian Delegate declares, in answer to my personal interrogation, that I have throughout acted in good understanding with him, and that I have not on any occasion met him with suspicion or opposed or counteracted him in any way, and that reports of want of co-operation between myself and him are absolutely false. We are on the best terms imaginable.

No. 458.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April* 18, 1879.

FIRST sitting to-day. Russian Commissioner had received instructions from his Government to abstain entirely from voting on questions of principle, unless Commission was unanimous. Proposal of Austrian Commissioner that the Commission should discuss all questions on which differences might arise before leaving Constantinople, and refer them to the respective Governments, was carried. French Commissioner elected President.

Russian survey from Ichtiman to Kazan[lik] laid before the Commission.

English surveying party has been declared ready for business of the Commission, which will apply to the Russian authorities to facilitate work of the party. Other members have received no instructions about commencing Sofia frontier.

No. 459.

The Albanian League to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 19.)

(Télégraphique.) *Le* 18 *Avril*, 1879.

APPRENONS que la solution de la question Hellénique est laissée à votre discrétion: supplions prendre toutes nos prières et démarches, en considération: nos deux délégués vous entretiendront verbalement de notre résolution et opposition par les armes si permettiez usurpation par Grèce de Preveza, Arna, Janina.

La délivrance de notre nationalité et l'épargne du sang dépendent de vous.

No. 460.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 19, 1879.

YOU should inform M. Depretis that we have stated to Russia that we can consent to no modification of Treaty of Berlin. We accept, however, Turkish proposal, that the Commission be prolonged for one year, and that the exercise of power of Vali shall be dependent on sanction of majority during that time, at least so far as the right to call Turkish troops into the interior is concerned. This being proposed by Turks may be accepted without derogation of Treaty. We are also willing to counsel Turks not to be too hasty in occupying points on frontier of Eastern Roumelia, but to wait for a few months till delimitation is complete. Express hope that in all that concerns Balkan Peninsula England and Italy may act heartily together, especially in pending negotiations about Greece.

No. 461.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 26.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 19, 1879, 11·55 P.M.

FROM how many Powers has Porte received assent to Aleko?

No. 462.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 19, 1879, 11·55 P.M.

WHEN are Commission likely to have finished their statute? I understand only Vacouf is still unfinished.

No. 463.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 218.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 19, 1879.*

I HAVE to request your Excellency to inform M. Depretis that Her Majesty's Government have stated to the Russian Government that they can consent to no modification of the Treaty of Berlin.

They accept, however, the proposal which has been made by the Porte that the Commission should be prolonged for one year, and that the exercise of power by the Vali shall be dependent on the sanction of the majority of the Commission during that time; at all events, so far as the right to summon Turkish troops into the interior is concerned. This proposal, having emanated from Turkey, may be accepted without any derogation of the Treaty of Berlin.

You should add that Her Majesty's Government are willing, further, to counsel the Porte not to be too hasty in taking steps for the actual occupation of points on the frontier of Eastern Roumelia, but to wait for a few months until the delimitation of the frontier is complete.

You will at the same time express the hope of Her Majesty's Government that, in all matters relating to the Balkan Peninsula, England and Italy may act cordially in concert, especially in the pending negotiations for the settlement of the Greek question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 464.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 20, 1879, 12·30 A.M.*

I AM very glad to hear satisfactory condition of things reported by you. Some one must have misled the Austrian Government.

No. 465.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 20, 1879, 6 A.M.*

WE have instructed General Hamley, if possible, to begin work of delimitation from the west. During the earlier part of the work the Commission will have the protection of Russian troops. It is desirable that when this ceases they should be as near as possible to the eastern shore, both because population is less hostile and it would be easier to introduce a Turkish escort without crossing districts inhabited by Bulgarians.

No. 466.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 20, 1879, 6·30 A.M.*

THE following has been sent to Vienna, Paris, Rome. Tell Wolff.

[See No. 465.]

No. 467.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 20.)

(No. 45.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 19, 1879.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 31, it may be well I should mention that Schouvaloff told me yesterday it was possible he might return to London by Vienna.

No. 468.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 20.)

(No. 46.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 20, 1879.*

BEING confined to bed by illness, I instructed First Secretary to obtain from M. de Giers the explanation of Russian "Delimitation Circular" you desired.

As M. de Giers answered by letter the same evening I had no opportunity of discussing the terms of his reply before telegraphing them to London.

This morning I pointed out to him the ambiguous character of some of his phrases, and insisted on necessity of allowing the majority to determine the points at which the strategical necessities of the locality might require the watershed to be stepped northward. He will reply to-morrow.

M. de Giers tells me that he did not mean that the Commission should indicate the spots where the Turkish garrisons should be placed on the southern frontier. This is a subordinate matter, which I will explain by letter.

I gather from the last paragraph in your telegram that you are inclined to agree that the watershed should regulate in the main the line of demarcation, subject to the necessary deviations already referred to.

Am I right? Hitherto I have not said a word to lead the Russians to suppose you accepted this principle.

Should you do so, I think there should be no difficulty in agreeing to the majority principle for the rest. Their fear is lest a "strategical" necessity should carry the line into Bulgaria. Might we not drop both terms "strategical" and "tactical," and say "defensible," adopting some such wording as follows:—

"It shall be an instruction to the Delimitation Commission to take the watershed as their guide in mark [? ing] off the line of demarcation, except where deviations may be necessary to secure a defensible frontier to Turkey according to the terms of the Treaty of Berlin, such deviations to be determined by the majority of the Commission."

No. 469.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 20.)

(No. 47.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 20, 1879.*

M. DE GIERS tells me he has countermanded the mobilization of the gymnastic societies. I have also seen a telegram just arrived from Stolipin assuring the Emperor he is doing his very best to facilitate the introduction of the new régime, and that now he hopes everything will go off well. I am quite satisfied that this was a genuine official report, and not a "blind."

No. 470.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 20.)

(No. 48.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 20, 1879.*

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF leaves for London to-morrow, travelling by way of Vienna. He asks me to tell your Lordship that his journey is without political significance.

No. 471.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 20.)

(No. 347.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 19, 1879.*

THE Imperial authorization has been given, and the Austrian Convention will be signed to-morrow morning.

No. 472.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 20.)

(No. 348.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 19, 1879.*

I HAVE received following telegram from Vice-Consul at Philippopolis, dated to-day:—

"Distribution of arms to Bulgarians continues; to-day the konak yard is crowded with carts laden with rifles for district of Konoush. Twenty thousand members of the Gymnasium will be reviewed by Skobeleff at Slivno on Sunday. Slight encounters are taking place in the Rhodope between Bulgarians and Pomaks."

No. 473.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 20.)

(No. 349.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 20, 1879.*

I HAVE received following telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo:—

"Commissioners have already liberated fifty-four Zeitoun prisoners."

No. 474.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 20.)

(No. 150.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 20, 1879.*

I HAVE received your telegram. We are only waiting Porte's counter proposals about Vacouf, which we shall have this week. The statute is being translated into Turkish.

The Sultan yesterday asked me to write him a Memorandum advising him what to do in Eastern Roumelia. I do not like doing so till I hear from you.

Lord Donoughmore reports fresh disturbances in Macedonia; Bulgarians attacking Turkish villages. Sultan said Reouf Pasha recommended the province to be entrusted to local militia under Governor-General and the Commission.

Your letter of the 18th April arrived to-day.

No. 475.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Aleppo, April 19, 1879.*

THE Commissioners have already liberated fifty-four of the Zeitoun prisoners.

No. 476.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 20, 1879, 5·45 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram of the 18th instant, you are now authorized to present your credentials as Minister President, stating that Her Majesty recognizes the independence of Servia in the confidence that the measures taken by the Legislature for the removal of religious disabilities, as stipulated by Treaty of Berlin, will be completed by the Greater Skuptchina.

No. 477.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 28.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 20, 1879, 10·45 P.M.*

I ENTIRELY approve of your proceedings with respect to the Austrian Convention, and congratulate you on the result.

No. 478.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 29.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 20, 1879, 11 P.M.*

I HAVE received following figures from St. Petersburgh.

Show to Sir H. Wolff.

[Repetition of No. 469.]

No. 479.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 20, 1879, 11·30 P.M.*

I HAVE received following from Lord Dufferin:—

[Repetition of No. 468, beginning at "I gather that you are inclined, &c."]

Ask Count Andrassy what he thinks of this principle?

No. 480.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 20, 1879, 11·55 P.M.*

I HAVE received following figures from Mr. Malet.

[Repetition of No. 449.]

No. 481.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.**

(No. 243.)
Foreign Office, April 20, 1879.

Sir,

INSTRUCTIONS have been sent to General Hamley to the effect that it would be desirable that the work of the Frontier Commission should begin, if possible, from the west of the Balkan range. The motive of this instruction is that during the earlier part of the work of delimitation the Commission will have the protection of Russian troops, and that when this ceases it will be desirable that it should find itself as near as possible to the eastern shore, both because the population in that quarter is less hostile, and because it would be easier to introduce Turkish troops to serve as escort without having to bring them through districts in which they would find themselves in contact with Bulgarian inhabitants.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 482.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 245.)
Foreign Office, April 20, 1879.

Sir,

YOUR Excellency will see from the telegraphic correspondence with the Earl of Dufferin, copy of which has been furnished to you, the nature of the efforts which have been made by Her Majesty's Government to obtain from the Russian Government a clear explanation of the distinction made by them between questions of detail, in which they propose to allow the Commission charged with the tracing of the Balkan frontier to decide by majority of votes and questions of principle which should, in their opinion, be reserved for the decision of the Cabinets.

Lord Dufferin, in his telegram No. 44 of the 17th instant, reported that the Russian Government would accept the majority principle on certain conditions, one of which was that the Commission confined itself to the consideration of the tactical defensive frontier as indicated by the crest of the mountains and the watershed. In my reply of the following day (No. 30), I pointed out that the solution of a tactical question could not be found in a watershed, and I stated that Her Majesty's Government contended that a majority should decide where the watershed might be over-stepped for strategical reasons. Lord Dufferin answered on the 20th that he gathered from this statement that Her Majesty's Government were inclined to agree that the watershed should regulate in the main the line of demarcation, subject to necessary deviations, and he suggested a form of instruction to the Commission, which would tell them to take the watershed as their guide, except where deviations should be necessary, to secure to Turkey a defensible frontier according to the terms of the Treaty of Berlin, such deviations to be determined by the majority.

The matter having arrived at this stage, I have authorized your Excellency to-day, by telegraph, to communicate Lord Dufferin's suggestions confidentially to Count Andrassy, and to inquire his Excellency's opinion upon the principle which it involves.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 483.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 564.)
Foreign Office, April 20, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram stating the steps taken by you to overcome the objections offered by the Sultan to the signature of the Convention between Turkey and Austria for the joint occupation of Novi-Bazar, and reporting that the Convention will be signed this morning.

* Similar despatches were addressed to Lord Lyons and Sir A. Paget.

I have telegraphed to express to you my entire approval of your proceedings, and to offer you my congratulations on the result.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 484.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(No. 37.)
Foreign Office, April 20, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE this day authorized you by telegraph to present to Prince Milan the letter by which the Queen accredits you as Her Majesty's Minister Resident to His Highness.

You are instructed to state that Her Majesty has taken this step, which involves the recognition by this country of the independence of Servia, in the full confidence that the preliminary measures passed by the Servian Legislature for the removal of religious disabilities will be confirmed and completed by the Greater Skuptchina, in accordance with the stipulations contained in the XXXVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No 485.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 78.)
Belgrade, March 29, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a printed document in French recently issued by the Servian Government on the finances of the country, its territory and population, its trade, and its agricultural and industrial resources.

From this paper, the accuracy of which I have not the means of testing, it would appear that the total indebtedness of the Principality, dating only from 1876, came at the beginning of the current financial year to 30,314,221 fr., or 1,212,568*l.* Of the above amount 374,113*l.* are owing abroad, and 838,455*l.* at home. The former sum is made up of the foreign loan of 1876, contracted in Russia at 6 per cent., 272,640*l.*; accumulated arrears of interest thereon, 36,754*l.*, and amount still due to foreign contractors, 64,719*l.*; the latter sum includes the bonds of the National (Forced) Loan of 1876 and 1877 at 8 per cent., 305,069*l.*; the accumulated arrears of interest thereon, 49,972*l.*; the amount due in payment of military requisitions, 309,864*l.*; advances made to the Government from the judicial and administrative deposits, 116,656*l.*; and sums owing to native army contractors, 56,894*l.*

The public receipts, which in 1864 did not exceed the very modest amount of 381,625*l.*, had risen by the year 1873 to 584,313*l.*, whereas the public expenditure during the same period had merely increased from 412,365*l.* to 583,230*l.* In the course of these ten years the receipts thus showed an increase of 53 per cent. to one of 41 per cent. in the expenditure, a favourable contrast, as far as it goes, to what has occurred in most States.

Since then the national finances have been thrown into utter confusion, a public debt has been created, and the resources of the country are all but completely exhausted by costly armaments and ruinous wars of aggression, notwithstanding the large subsidies received from official and non-official Russian sources, for the public accounts do not show a tithe of the sacrifices of all kinds imposed on the people.

The expenditure, which in 1873 was put down at 583,230*l.*, rose in 1874 to 615,523*l.*, in 1875 to 851,342*l.*, in 1876 to 1,328,721*l.*, but fell in 1877 to 919,965*l.*, only to rise again in 1878 to 975,322*l.*

For the current financial year (1879), the expenditure is estimated at 26,580,363 fr., or 1,063,214*l.*, the ordinary expenses standing for 18,615,769 fr., or 744,630*l.*, and the extraordinary for 7,964,594 fr., or 318,584*l.* The ordinary receipts are set down at 18,091,002 fr., or 759,640*l.*, and the extraordinary at 9,023,796 fr., or 360,951*l.*, or altogether at 28,014,591 fr., equal to 1,120,501*l.*, thus leaving an apparent surplus of receipts over expenditure of 1,434,466 fr., equal to 57,378*l.*

A mere glance at the estimates suffices to disclose the very clumsy attempt made

to convert a deficit into an apparent surplus, for the amount of debt, 7,964,594 fr., or 318,583*l.*, to be paid off, bears no interest, whilst it is to be met by a fresh issue of bonds of the National 8 per Cent. Loan of almost equal amount, 7,283,796 fr., or 291,351*l.*, the interest on which will come to an additional sum of over 580,000 fr., or 23,200*l.* It is at the same time exceedingly doubtful whether, under present circumstances, it will be possible to dispose of these bonds. There appears, moreover, amongst the ordinary receipts, a large item under the head of miscellaneous receipts, which is of very dubious value. It would seem that this item is supposed to represent arrears of taxes due to the Government, and that a slightly varying sum under the same heading is carried forward from Budget to Budget to the credit of the State.

Although it is almost too much to hope that Servia will be able to pay the interest on her debt before the close of the current year, unless she is fortunate enough to contract a new foreign loan, there is good reason to expect she will, by that date, be in a position to meet all her present engagements. But the difficult problem remains to be solved, how she is to raise the 4,000,000*l.* required for the construction of her railway system, without speaking of the share of the Turkish public debt, probably from 3,000,000*l.* to 4,000,000*l.* more, which will be allotted to her in conformity with the decisions of the Congress of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure in No. 485.

Situation Financière de la Serbie.

Droit National et Constitution.

LA Serbie est une Principauté libre et indépendante.

L'indépendance de la Serbie a été définitivement reconnue par le Traité de Berlin de 1878.

La Constitution Serbe, de 1869, votée par la Skoupchtina, ou Assemblée Nationale, et jurée par le Prince, garantit aux citoyens l'égalité devant la loi, la liberté personnelle, la liberté de la presse, l'inviolabilité de la propriété, l'abolition de la confiscation, l'instruction (primaire, secondaire, et supérieur) gratuite, la liberté des cultes et celle de leur exercice public, ainsi que la liberté de manifester ses opinions en toute matière.

La forme de Gouvernement que cette Constitution consacre pour la Serbie, est ce qu'on appelle Monarchie Constitutionnelle ou Représentative.

Le pouvoir législatif s'exerce collectivement par le Prince et le Skoupchtina.

La personne du Prince est inviolable. Tous les actes officiels doivent être contresignés par un Ministre qui en prend la responsabilité. Le Prince jouit de tous les droits conférés aux Monarques Constitutionnels.

Il y a sept Ministères: Instruction Publique et Cultes, Justice, Intérieur, Finances, Travaux Publics, Guerre, Affaires Etrangères. Les Ministres sont responsables.

La Skoupchtina est composée de Députés qui sont élus par le suffrage universel. Elle est convoquée, par le Prince, tous les ans pour sa Session ordinaire, et ensuite aussi souvent que les circonstances l'exigent.

Finances.

Le contrôle des finances publiques résulte non-seulement de la publication des budgets, mais encore du vote de ces budgets par la représentation nationale et de la garantie de leur affectation à des services distincts.

Sous ce régime et dans l'état normal les budgets de la Principauté ne cessent pas de s'équilibrer, en recettes et en dépenses. C'est ainsi qu'avant la guerre et pendant la période de 1864 à 1873 ces recettes et ces dépenses ont été de—

Années.	Recettes.	Dépenses.
	Piastres d'Impôt.*	Piastres d'Impôt.
1864	23,137,161	24,487,248
1865	25,520,898	25,524,612
1866	27,507,295	27,785,160
1867	29,197,960	28,538,172
1868	37,516,762	35,266,985
1869	34,877,262	29,847,098
1870	34,069,623	34,976,596
1871	32,761,420	33,416,391
1872	34,151,825	32,512,420
1873	34,697,967	34,693,044

* 100 piastres d'impôt = 42·10 fr.

Il a été pourvu aux dépenses au moyen des ressources normales de la Principauté et des impôts qu'elle percevait.

Les principales ressources étaient:—

	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.
	Prs. d'Impôt.	Prs. d'Impôt.	Prs. d'Impôt.	Prs. d'Impôt.
Contributions Directes	18,479,403	18,563,993	18,911,454	19,196,337
Douanes	5,094,757	5,509,841	4,759,825	5,353,806
Monopole du sel et du tabac ..	711,107	858,728	1,049,675	794,458
Domaines	503,862	500,685	446,468	583,572
Postes et télégraphes . ..	625,203	614,732	670,053	678,443
Taxes judiciaires	1,031,968	1,146,044	1,289,022	1,387,524

Les circonstances ont obligé la Principauté à doubler, en 1874 et 1875, son armement, et en 1876 et 1877, les nécessités de la guerre ont forcé la Serbie à recourir à des moyens de crédit pour faire face aux dépenses extraordinaires, résultant de la nouvelle situation.

Voici la somme des recettes et dépenses des Exercices de 1874 et 1875.

Date.	Recettes.	Dépenses.
	Prs. d'Impôt.	Prs. d'Impôt.
1874	34,716,138	36,551,258
1875	48,192,248	51,029,890

D'après les budgets officiels dressés pour les Exercices de 1876, 1877, et 1878, les recettes et les dépenses de ces exercices s'élèvent aux sommes suivantes:—

Budget de 1876.

Dépenses.		Piastres d'Impôt.
Ordinaires	34,806,903	
Extraordinaires de guerre	39,817,820	
Contributions en retard et pertes sur les impôts et revenus ..	4,278,000	
Total des Dépenses		78,902,723
Recettes.		
Ordinaires		35,256,692
Ressources extraordinaires—		
Emprunt national, 8 pour cent.	9,136,037	
Emprunt étranger (fait en Russie) 6 pour cent.	13,939,094	
Dépôts judiciaires et administratifs	4,767,000	
Réquisitions	17,706,000	
		45,548,131
Total des Recettes		80,804,823

Budget de 1877.

Dépenses.

		Piastres d'Impôt.
Ordinaires		34,914,902
Charges extraordinaires—		
Intérêts annuels de l'Emprunt National de 1876 . ..	842,802	
Intérêts et amortissement de l'emprunt étranger	1,102,462	
Remboursement des obligations de l'État à court terme ..	3,625,370	
Ce qu'on doit aux fournisseurs étrangers	10,000,000	
Remboursement d'une partie de l'Emprunt National et des réquisitions, au profit des districts, des villes, et des personnes qui ont souffert de la guerre	2,362,471	
Secours aux victimes de la guerre	1,781,250	
		19,714,355
Total des Dépenses		54,629,257

Recettes.

Ordinaires		35,444,606
Ressources extraordinaires—		
Nouvelle émission de l'Emprunt National	17,715,500	
Augmentation des impôts de consommation sur boissons (bières)	215,605	
Centimes additionnels en faveur des personnes qui ont souffert de la guerre	1,781,250	
		19,714,355
Total des Recettes		55,158,960

Budget de 1878.

Dépenses.

	Frs. d'Impôt.	Fr.	Frs. d'Impôt.	Fr.
Ordinaires			38,627,751 =	16,264,315
Charges extraordinaires—				
Intérêts de l'Emprunt National ..	1,840,208 =	774,824		
Intérêts et amortissement de l'emprunt étranger	2,061,840	868,143		
Remboursement des obligations de l'État à court terme ..	5,272,561	2,220,025		
Ce qu'on doit aux fournisseurs étrangers	5,040,000	2,122,105		
Ce qu'on doit aux fournisseurs dans le pays	2,111,200	888,026		
Remboursement d'une partie de l'Emprunt National et des réquisitions au profit des districts, des villes et des personnes qui ont souffert de la guerre ..	2,362,469	994,724		
Secours aux victimes de la guerre .	593,750	250,000		
			19,282,028	8,116,747
Total des Dépenses			57,909,779	24,383,062

Recettes.

Ordinaires			35,893,200 =	15,112,926
Ressources extraordinaires—				
Nouvelle émission de l'Emprunt National 8 pour cent ..	18,092,696 =	7,870,609		
Augmentation des impôts de consommation sur boissons (bières)	142,500	60,000		
Centimes additionnels en faveur des personnes qui ont souffert de la guerre	593,750	250,000		
			19,428,946	8,180,609
Total des Recettes			55,322,146	23,293,535

Voici maintenant le Budget pour l'Exercice de 1879.

Budget de 1879.

Dépenses.

		Fr. c.	Fr. c.
I. Ordinaires—			
1. Dépenses générales—			
Liste Civile		505,263 15	
Skoupchtina		105,263 15	
Conseil d'Etat		170,357 86	
Pensions		196,991 05	
Dépenses diverses		137,263 12	
Crédits extraordinaires		357,894 74	
			1,773,033 06
2. Services généraux des Ministères—			
Justice et Contrôle		1,720,240 00	
Instruction Publique et Cultes		1,976,146 53	
Affaires Etrangères		434,196 20	
Intérieur		3,571,056 00	
Finances		940,856 43	
Guerre		7,031,882 10	
Travaux Publics		1,168,358 74	
			16,842,736 06
Total			18,615,769 06
II. Charges extraordinaires—			
Intérêts de l'Emprunt National		1,249,268 48	
Intérêts et amortissement de l'emprunt étranger ..		1,250,637 00	
Remboursement des obligations de l'État à court terme, et des dépôts judiciaires et administratifs		2,004,931 98	
Ce qu'on doit aux fournisseurs étrangers . ..		1,617,981 00	
Ce qu'on doit aux fournisseurs dans le pays ..		847,032 00	
Remboursement d'une partie de l'Emprunt National et des réquisitions au profit des districts, des villes, et des personnes qui ont souffert de la guerre		994,724 00	
Total			7,964,594 46
Total des Dépenses sub I et II			26,580,363 52

Recettes.

I. Ordinaires—			
1. Contributions Directes—			
Impôt personnel		3,832,371 36	
Impôts sur les domestiques et sur les tziganes		31,578 94	
2. Contributions Indirectes—			
Douanes		2,357,894 73	
Impôts de consommation		526,315 78	
Monopole du sel		315,789 47	
„ du tabac		244,210 52	
„ des mines		5,894 73	
3. Taxes—			
Judiciaires		547,368 42	
Taxes de licitation		33,684 21	
„ forestières.		10,526 31	
4. Biens de l'État—			
Domaines		252,631 58	
Intérêts des capitaux de l'État		12,631 58	
Imprimerie National		139,473 68	
Haras		14,736 84	
Postes et télégraphes		370,526 32	
Crédit Foncier Serbe (" Ouprava Fondova").		235,789 47	
5. Fonds pour le service de l'enseignement public .		716,789 48	
6. Recettes diverses		3,243,780 47	
Total des Recettes Ordinaires			18,991,002 39
II. Ressources extraordinaires—			
Nouvelle émission de l'Emprunt National, 8 pour cent		7,283,796 67	
Augmentation des impôts de consommation sur boissons (bières)		240,000 00	
Patentes		1,500,000 00	
Total des Recettes Extraordinaires			9,023,796 67
Total des Recettes sub I et II			28,014,799 56

La dette publique de la Serbie se décompose actuellement comme suit:—

1. *Dette Extérieure.*

	Fr. c.	Fr. c.
L'emprunt étranger de 1876, fait en Russie, 6 pour cent ..	6,816,000 00	
Intérêts de cet emprunt	918,843 00	
Ce qu'on doit aux fournisseurs étrangers	1,617,981 00	
Total		9,352,824 00

2. *Dette Intérieure.*

Obligations de l'Emprunt National de 1876 et 1877, à 8 pour cent	7,626,742 58	
Intérêts de cet emprunt	1,249,288 48	
Réquisitions	7,746,591 00	
Dépôts judiciaires et administratifs	2,916,411 56	
Ce qu'on doit aux fournisseurs dans le pays	1,422,363 80	
Total		20,961,397 42
Total de la Dette Publique de la Serbie		30,314,221 42

La part de la dette n'est, pour chaque habitant, que de 18·95 fr.

La Serbie n'a aucune circulation de bons du trésor ni de papier monnaie. Au besoin ses recettes pourraient être augmentées, par le vote de la représentation nationale, et cela avec d'autant plus de facilité que les ressources financières du pays ne sont épuisées par aucun accroissement disproportionné de taxes.

Territoire et Population de la Serbie.

La superficie de la Serbie est, dans ses limites actuelles, de 988 milles géographiques carrés.

Les recensements qui ont eu lieu dans la Principauté de 1833 à 1875 ont donné les résultats suivants :—

Date.	Population.	Date.	Population.
	Habitants.		Habitants.
1833	678,158	1866	1,215,576
1843	859,545	1874	1,352,522
1853	990,009	1875	1,377,062

La proportion de l'augmentation annuelle de la population est donc, en moyenne, de 21·841 pour cent.

La population de la Serbie, qui était avant la guerre de 1,377,062 habitants, s'élève actuellement, par suite de l'agrandissement du territoire Serbe, à plus de 1,600,000 habitants.

Commerce.

Le mouvement général du commerce, importations et exportations réunies, a été:—

	Importations.	Exportations.	Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade.
	Fr.	Fr.	£	£	£
En 1865	95,929,090	91,012,003	767,433	728,096	1,495,529
1866	108,383,277	93,990,573	867,066	751,925	1,618,991
1867	132,266,727	124,060,771	1,058,054	992,486	2,050,540
1868	149,813,475	189,120,756	1,198,508	1,512,960	2,711,474
1869	133,297,731	160,818,543	1,066,382	1,554,548	2,620,930
1870	130,686,191	152,977,099	1,117,469	1,223,817	2,341,306
1871	138,656,944	138,140,894	1,109,278	1,105,095	2,214,367
1872	136,015,200	169,904,600	1,095,322	1,359,237	2,454,559
1873	136,900,904	136,307,543	1,095,225	1,090,469	2,185,686
1874	162,281,812	195,000,319	1,298,254	1,507,203	2,805,457

Ressources Agricoles et Industrielles.

La Serbie renferme des ressources agricoles et industrielles qui peuvent donner les plus beaux résultats et légitimer l'emploi de capitaux. Elle a un sol très-fertile, d'immenses forêts et des mines d'une richesse inépuisable.

Les principales mines de la Serbie sont :—

1. *Maïdanpek.*—Ces mines sont situées dans la partie est de la Principauté, à 20 kilom. du Danube. Il s'y trouve des minerais de cuivre et de fer, dont les premiers seulement sont exploités. On y produit annuellement 2,000 quintaux métriques de cuivre. Cette production pourrait être plus considérable si l'on augmentait l'établissement. Maïdanpek a deux fonderies de cuivre avec plusieurs fourneaux. Il y a aussi une fonderie pour le fer avec un haut fourneau et un fourneau à coupole. Les installations sont complètes et il y a en outre 400 bâtiments et maisons de construction partie solide partie légère.

Le terrain de Maïdanpek est de 24,000 hectares. Deux tiers de ce terrain sont couverts de belles forêts.

Maïdanpek a été concédé en exploitation à une compagnie Anglaise de Londres—Servian Iron and Copper Company Limited. La concession est de 50 ans, à dater du 1er Mai, 1868. Cette Société paie au Gouvernement Serbe 3 pour cent de la valeur vénale du métal produit, sans tenir compte du revenu du domaine.

Si l'on admet qu'un hectare ne vaut que 600 fr. en moyenne, la valeur du domaine de Maïdanpek serait de 14,500,000 fr.

2. *Koutchaïna*, avec des mines de plomb, de zinc, d'argent, et d'or.—Les mines sont à 14 kilom. à l'ouest de Maïdanpek et à 16 kilom. de Gradichté sur le Danube.

Koutchaïna a une fonderie avec des fourneaux pour le plomb, le zinc, et l'argent, et toutes les installations nécessaires pour l'exploitation ainsi que les maisons d'habitation.

L'exploitation de Koutchaïna est concédée à la maison des Frères Bright de Londres, à la condition de payer 5 pour cent de la valeur produite. La concession doit durer encore 35 ans. Cette exploitation n'a marché que lentement, et cela à cause d'insuffisance de capitaux. En 1874 ces mines n'ont produit que 400 quintaux de plomb, 1,320 lbs. d'argent, et environ 34 lbs. d'or, représentant une valeur de 200,000 fr.

Le terrain de Koutchaïna est de 1,800 hectares; deux tiers de ce terrain sont en bonne forêt. Un hectare pouvant être estimé à 800 fr., la valeur du domaine est de 1,500,000 fr. environ.

3. *Ségné*, avec des mines de houille.—Ces mines sont situées à 12 kilom. de la Morava et par conséquent de la future voie ferrée. Le terrain comprend 8,000 hectares. D'après les calculs d'experts ces mines contiennent 14 milliards de quintaux métriques de houille. Les frais d'exploitation, de transport, &c., s'élèvent à 50 c. par quintal métrique, dont la valeur vénale est de 75 c., représentant un bénéfice de 25 c. par quintal métrique. Ainsi la valeur des mines de Ségné peut être évaluée à 3 milliards de francs.

4. *Mines de Plomb de Podrigné.*—Ces mines renferment des minerais de plomb, de zinc, et d'antimoine. L'exploitation n'en est qu'au début; elle promet un bel avenir à la seule condition d'y consacrer le capital suffisant. Il s'y trouve une fonderie pour le plomb avec les bâtiments et maisons nécessaires. On a consacré jusqu'à présent 500,000 fr. à l'exploitation de ces mines, et on a produit comme essai 12,000 quintaux de plomb en deux années.

5. *Scories de Plomb de Partizani.*—Sur le territoire de Partizani à 28 kilom. de Belgrade et 4 kilom. du tracé de la voie ferrée, il se trouve une grande quantité de scories de plomb, reste d'une ancienne exploitation, analogue à celle du Laurium en Grèce. Les scories sont la propriété de l'Etat. Des experts ont évalué la quantité de ces scories à 420,000 mètres cubes, représentant un poids de 10,000,000 quintaux métriques. Ces matières forment des amas sur une étendue de 2,500 hectares. Leur richesse métallique moyenne est à l'analyse de 5·5 pour cent de plomb et de 0·0037 pour cent d'argent, de sorte que leur exploitation offre encore du profit.

No. 486.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 81.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, April 2, 1879.*

IN my despatch No. 75 of the 25th ultimo, on the condition of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, I had occasion to allude to an address alleged to have been sent on behalf of the Bosnians to Count Andrassy. I now hasten to transmit herewith to your Lordship a translation of this document, in which his Excellency is called upon in conciliatory, though, at the same time, somewhat threatening, language, to extend his assistance to them in their present distressed condition, and to grant them certain concessions they consider themselves entitled to on the part of his Government.

Dr. Ziemann, a well-known philanthropist, who has just arrived here from Bosnia, fully confirms the reports I had previously received of the widespread distress and discontent prevalent in those provinces, and goes so far as to say he greatly doubts the possibility of Austria-Hungary permanently maintaining her rule over them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure in No. 486.

Petition of the Christian Voivodes of Bosnia, sent to the Austro-Hungarian Chancellor, Count Andrassy.

(Translated from the original Servian into the German language, and now into English.)

Herr Graf,

WE address ourselves to you as the Chief Representative of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, which has received the European mandate of the Great Powers to occupy and govern Bosnia and the Herzegovina, for the purpose of making known to you the wants and pressing wishes of the people of these provinces.

1. We would ask you as soon as possible to cause to be called together the National Parliament in Serajevo, for the purpose of taking advice and counsel as to the proper mode of governing those people according to their wants, a counsel which cannot longer be postponed.

2. Bulgaria and Old Servia, which provinces are occupied by Russia and Servia, have already the advantages of a National Council, but with us there is no sign that it is the immediate intention to call one together. The necessity of such a Parliament is with us greater than was the case with the above-named provinces, and although we hear on all sides that the Government under which Europe has placed us belongs to the highest degree of Constitutional Monarchies.

3. We ask that our ruined people (returned refugees) shall receive 10 kr. per day per head until the corn which they are now sowing shall come to maturity. The help of 5 kr. per day, which up till now has been distributed, would not be sufficient in ordinary times, but utterly insufficient now in consequence of the heavy work to be done in retilling the neglected land, and rebuilding our destroyed houses. We draw your attention, Count, to the fact known to your Government, that this winter, from the 50,000 returned Bosnian refugees, 20,000 have died from hunger and exposure; that for our unfortunate people help should be given without consideration of religion, so that at least every two families may possess a plough and horses, or oxen, to enable them to work. This help your Government can give our people, whether as a gift or as a loan. If in the form of a loan, we will pledge our State forests and natural mineral wealth, which we consider the property of our people. This request respecting agricultural implements is one of most pressing necessity, as the time has come when the field work should begin. If you do not come to our help the remainder of the returned refugees must die as their brothers have died during the winter, which you, as our emancipator, cannot wish to see.

4. We ask that the schools, which are now filled with soldiers, should be again given over for the instruction of our youth. Also that our townships should be paid honourably for building materials which have been requisitioned from them.

5. That the post shall be so organized in our provinces, for and from abroad, so that

our light packets can be transmitted per "Nachnahme" (against reimbursement), and our money packets can be sent as heretofore under the Turks.

6. That as our people have been deprived both of great and small weapons of every kind, that it is not, and no longer can be, necessary to maintain the state of siege which presses so severely on our liberty.

We ask that the hangings and shootings under military law should come to an end, which we think does not become a cultivated and free State coming with the intention of emancipation, and not with the object of crushing and destroying us. In the last four months the gallows and platoon fire have been daily exercised in a way that never took place in our worst revolutions under the Turks, even when our land and around our borders were in the flames of insurrection. That an end shall be put to these executions, always without trial, it is necessary that a Council of our people shall be called to advise with your officers.

We ask for the right of meetings, of free discussion of our affairs in our villages, towns, corporations, and National Assembly. All the ordinances and laws which exist against this freedom cannot do otherwise than foster a feeling of dissatisfaction, which we know too well, if not improved, ends in revolution. We call you, Count, to remember the truth of this, as both your experience as a patriot and a statesman give evidence, and all history shows. To so great a man and a statesman as your Excellency it is not necessary to dilate more upon this subject. "Wise men understand easily." We, therefore, await a free and humane answer to this our Petition.

With the highest respect,
(Signed) STEVAN RAJKOVICH.
NICOLA STANCOVITCH.
(And 150 other principal Christian Voivodes in Bosnia and Herzegovina.)

Banjaluka, March 10, 1879.

No. 487.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 83.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, April 5, 1879.*

THE continued reports in the newspapers respecting the mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia, and of the advance of the Austro-Hungarian forces on Novi-Bazar, have caused considerable uneasiness in Government circles here, because it is feared that Power may take advantage of one or the other of these contingencies to insist upon sending her troops through Servian territory. M. Ristich stated to me he trusted no such demand would be addressed to his Government, as it would have, in the present state of public feeling in the Principality, to be refused at any risk under pain of all those who might be tempted to concede it being branded as traitors by their fellow-countrymen and treated as such.

In common with the majority of my colleagues I should deprecate a step of this nature, which, I fully believe, might lead to very serious political complications, extending beyond the limits of Servia.

Should this measure be nevertheless determined upon, it is to be hoped compliance with it will be enforced by the collective action of the Great Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 488.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 7. Consular.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, April 10, 1879.*

THE Servian Government addressed to all the foreign Representatives at Belgrade the inclosed Circular, dated the 27th ultimo, but only delivered on the 4th instant, in which their respective Governments are invited to consent to the abolition of the Capitulations, taking into their favourable consideration the ample guarantees the Principality has long been able to offer them in respect to the due and impartial administration of

justice, as well as its altered position since its recent elevation to the rank of an independent State.

I have the honour likewise to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of the note I addressed to M. Ristich, acknowledging the receipt of the above communication.

I have subsequently had several interviews with his Excellency on the subject, who assured me he would be prepared to make every concession in his power to induce Her Majesty's Government to relinquish this last objectionable vestige of bye-gone times, and mentioned that of extending to British subjects the right of acquiring, holding, and disposing of real property in Servia in the same manner in all respects as Servian subjects.

I remarked that I did not think Her Majesty's Government would be satisfied with such a concession, to which they were fully entitled by reciprocity, considering foreigners already enjoyed those same rights in the United Kingdom. He then added that some arrangement might likewise be made reserving to British Consular officers the administration of the estates of British subjects dying in the Principality. I suggested, in addition, the necessity of conceding to British subjects the privilege of invoking the intervention on their behalf of Her Majesty's Diplomatic or Consular officers in the Principality, in cases where they might hold themselves to have been unjustly treated as regards the assessment of the taxes.

The mode of levying taxes in this country is simple, cheap, and effective, but at the same time exceedingly arbitrary. There being no valuation of property, a village or commune is roughly estimated to contain so many households, and to possess so many acres of productive land. Thereupon the Prefect of the district calls upon the Mayor or Headman to remit to him a proportionate amount as taxes, and the latter, with the assistance of his Council, assesses the sum he has to collect, very much as he thinks proper, amongst the people subject to his authority. Under such circumstances it is to be feared foreigners would in most instances meet with but scant justice, unless some means were devised to protect them from illegal exactions.

On further reflection I find it would also be advisable to insert in any agreement that might be come to a clause guarding against the possibility of indirect attempts to restrict the right to be conferred on British subjects to set up commercial or industrial establishments, and to trade in the towns and villages of the interior of the Principality.

There is, I am aware, an old Servian law, which empowers the local authorities, at the request of the local corporations or guilds, or of a certain number of the inhabitants of the locality, peremptorily to close any shop, commercial or industrial establishment, they may deem detrimental to their interests. This almost obsolete law is never put in force with regard to natives, but it is every now and then brought into requisition against foreigners, and is a constant cause of conflict between the Servian and the Austro-Hungarian authorities.

Knowing how exclusive and how deeply prejudiced against foreigners the Servians in general still are, through ignorance and national vanity, I have warned M. Ristich that unless the Legislature sanctions these concessions, or any others of a similar description which Her Majesty's Government may consider necessary, the existing Capitulations will be maintained in force, and the Government strictly held to them. At the same time, to give greater weight to my words, I informed his Excellency that I intended to act in this matter, as in most others, in accord with my French colleague, who fully shared my views, and that we were not without hopes of rallying around us the majority of the foreign Representatives at Belgrade.

The support of the Russian Minister is not to be reckoned upon, for obvious reasons, and I should be sorry to be compelled to make common cause with the Austro-Hungarian Minister, owing to the peculiar position of affairs between the Empire he represents and Servia.

The latter has told me his Government would, he believed, insist on a Convention regulating all the details connected with the change of jurisdiction; on a second Convention for the mutual surrender of deserters, and on a third reciprocally binding both countries to carry out the sentences of the Law Courts of the other in their respective territories. These last two conditions will meet with the bitterest opposition on the part of the Servian Government and population, as, practically speaking, their effects will be almost entirely one-sided, the deserters from the Imperial army being incomparably more numerous than those from the Servian, and many of the former Servians by race, and the number of persons mutually liable to prosecution for debt being in like manner far greater in the Principality than in the neighbouring Empire.

The Capitulations in the modified form in which they are observed in this Principality, have long been of more than doubtful advantage to foreigners. They may be

said to have virtually ceased to be of avail, except as regards cases arising between foreign subjects of the same or of different nationalities, all others in which they may be mixed up with Servian subjects, whether as plaintiffs or defendants, being decided by the local Courts, without the intervention of their respective Consulates.

The practice which obtains in respect to Austro-Hungarian subjects, who constitute upwards of three-fourths of the foreign population in Servia, is that they are arrested, tried, and sentenced by the Servian Tribunals, the minutes of the proceedings being subsequently presented for revision to the Imperial Consulate, which takes charge of the culprit, and sends him back to Austria-Hungary, where he serves out his term.

Even in cases of bankruptcy the proper Consular officers are seldom allowed to intervene, as in theory they are legally entitled to under the Capitulations.

The only real benefit foreigners enjoy under the present complicated and unsatisfactory state of things is their freedom from taxation of every kind, which, to say the least, is scarcely fair towards the natives, who are thus placed at a disadvantage in competing with them. Yet this disadvantage must be compensated in other respects, seeing that many of the foreign residents become after a time, of their own free will, naturalized Servian subjects.

Some years back Her Majesty's Government consented to the payment by British subjects of municipal taxes; but the Servian Government have never, that I am aware of, taken advantage of this concession, for the example of Great Britain found no imitators amongst the other Powers.

Notwithstanding all the glowing encomiums lavished by the Servian Government on their national institutions, formed, as they assert, on the most approved European models, the administration of justice in the Principality is, I regret to state, still open to criticism. There was a time when scarcely one of the Judges had received any legal training whatever; but a great improvement has taken place in this respect, learned gentlemen so circumstanced being now rather the exception than the rule. There was also a time when prejudice against foreigners ran so high, that in no single case on record did they obtain redress at the hands of the local Law Courts; but I am credibly informed that of late there have been instances in which this system has not been so strictly adhered to, and foreigners have gained their causes. Bribery and corruption, which is said to have once pervaded the whole judicial bench, is now of rare occurrence in the higher Courts, and chiefly confined to the miserably underpaid officials of the lower Tribunals. The majority of the laws in force could be repealed with advantage, and others substituted of a simpler description, and more in harmony with modern jurisprudence; still, considering the difficulties of all kinds which have had to be overcome, it must be admitted that the administration of justice in this Principality is not more imperfect than in many other countries of far older date.

My French colleague, Baron des Michels, has strongly recommended to his Government to accede to the request of Servia respecting the abolition of the Capitulations, and has suggested the conclusion of a Consular Convention in lieu thereof, on the general basis indicated in my recording despatch of this date, No. 6, Consular.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 488.

M. Ristich to Mr. Gould.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Belgrade, le* $\frac{11}{23}$ *Mars*, 1879.

LES Capitulations conclues entre les Puissances Chrétiennes et la Sublime Porte avaient perdu leur raison d'être en Serbie depuis l'époque où la Principauté, devenue autonome et dotée d'une législation Européenne les plus avancées, avait offert la garantie la plus complète aux personnes ainsi qu'à la propriété.

Plus la Serbie développait ses institutions plus le maintien des Capitulations devenait inutile et gênant pour tout le monde.

Les Grandes Puissances persuadées elles-mêmes de l'inopportunité qu'il y avait de les maintenir intactes, avaient invité en 1862 leurs Représentants à Belgrade à se réunir en Conférence pour délibérer sur les modifications à apporter au régime existant. Après mûr examen, la Conférence se prononça dans un sens favourable à la Serbie, de sorte que le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie jugea en 1868 pouvoir renoncer aux droits de juridiction et de protection Consulaires dans la Principauté. Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique a de même admis l'opportunité d'une modification des Capitula-

tions en plaçant en 1873 ses ressortissants sur le même pied que les indigènes, en ce qui concerne la participation aux charges communales.

Les autres Grandes Puissances manifestèrent également des intentions bienveillantes auxquelles elles ne purent cependant donner suite qu'au Congrès de Berlin. En daignant reconnaître à cette occasion l'indépendance de la Principauté, elles lui ont créé une situation avec laquelle le maintien des Capitulations n'est plus compatible. Aussi le Traité de Berlin prévoit-il par son Article XXXVII des arrangements à conclure entre les Puissances Signataires et la Principauté relativement aux immunités des sujets étrangers ainsi qu'aux droits de juridiction et de protection Consulaires.

Son Altesse le Prince, qui met de son côté le plus grand empressement à exécuter les clauses du Traité de Berlin concernant la Serbie, m'a ordonné de faire les démarches nécessaires pour la réalisation des arrangements prévus par l'article sus-mentionné.

En conséquence, je prends la liberté de vous prier, M. le Chargé d'Affaires, de vouloir bien porter à la connaissance du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine la démarche que j'ai l'honneur de faire en vue de la conclusion d'un arrangement qui aurait pour but de faire cesser en Serbie les effets des Capitulations et d'y placer les sujets étrangers sur le même pied que dans les autres pays Chrétiens et indépendants de l'Europe.

La réalisation de cette mesure, tout en répondant à une décision du Congrès de Berlin, se trouve pleinement justifiée par l'état actuel des institutions politiques en Serbie, qui sont conformes à celles des pays constitutionnels de l'Europe, et de plus elle est réclamé par les véritables intérêts des sujets étrangers eux-mêmes. Une longue expérience a en effet démontré que leur situation exceptionnelle n'a au fond servi qu'à entraver la marche régulière de l'administration en général et à nuire à leurs intérêts en particulier. Elle a enfin porté préjudice à la bonne entente entre eux et les indigènes, ce qui est pour tous une source de graves inconvénients.

Ces considérations me font espérer que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine, qui s'est toujours montré animé des sentiments les plus bienveillants envers la Principauté voudra bien, après avoir reconnu son indépendance, faire un accueil favorable à cette démarche qui n'en est qu'une conséquence naturelle.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) J. RISTICH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 488.

Mr. Gould to M. Ristich.

M. le Président du Conseil, *Belgrade, April 4*, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Excellency's note, dated the 13th March, but only received this day, in which Her Majesty's Government are invited to come to an arrangement with the Government of Servia respecting the abolition of the existing Capitulations. In the absence of special instructions, I can only state in reply that your Excellency may rest assured I will lose no time in submitting this important matter to the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, who will, no doubt, give it their best attention.

I take, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 489.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 84.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, April 12*, 1879.

I HAVE duly communicated to the Servian Government the selection of Captain Anderson, R.E., as the British Delegate to the Servian Boundary Commission in succession to Major Wilson, R.E., C.B.

His Excellency assured me in reply that the Servian members of the Commission would be prepared to commence work on the appointed date. He and the Russian Minister are both equally anxious that the Commission should begin by the delimitation of the Servo-Bulgarian frontier, on account of the difficulties which have arisen in that quarter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 490.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 85.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, April 18*, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 66 of the 7th ultimo, on the Jewish Emancipation question, I have great satisfaction in acquainting your Lordship that, according to all accounts, active measures are being taken by the Servian Government to convoke in Nisch, at the earliest possible date, the Extraordinary Skuptchina, which will have to give its final sanction to the measure.

Prince Milan will, I also hear, continue to reside in that town for the next month or six weeks, by which time the short session of the Extraordinary Skuptchina will have been brought to a close.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 491.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 51. Political.)
My Lord, *Tirnovo, April 2*, 1879.

LAST night I had the honour of informing your Lordship by telegram that the Committee of Fifteen appointed by the Assembly of Notables to revise the Russian Programme of an Organic Law had drawn up accordingly a Report, to be this day presented to the Assembly.

The principal alterations suggested were as follows:—Firstly, that the hereditary succession of the Principality should be limited to heirs male; secondly, that the Prince's Civil List should not exceed six hundred thousand francs yearly; thirdly, that public or systematic Proselytism should be forbidden; fourthly, that the Great Assembly, mentioned in the Programme, should be dispensed with altogether; fifthly, that a Senate should be formed, having about three-fourths of its members nominees of the Prince, or *de jure*, the remainder being elective; sixthly, that the National or Representative Assembly should be wholly elective, no nominees of the Prince or members *de jure* being admitted to it; seventhly, that the existing Assembly of Notables, with the super-addition of sixty-two elective members, or two for each district, should have power to proceed to the first Princely election.

I added, that the greater part of these modifications in the original plan would be probably adopted by the Assembly.

To avoid unnecessary length, I omitted the minor points of a very prolix and verbiose report. Such were:—That no orders or decorations should be established in the Principality; that the Assembly should not have the power of offering presents to the Prince; that slavery should be absolutely illegal; that no deputy should be elected under twenty-five, nor senator nominated under forty; that the elective franchise should be of one hundred piastres, or twenty francs nearly of annual tax-payment; that, instead of seven, there should be only six Ministers; and other details.

Of the seven principal modifications it seems highly probable that all, with the exception of the third, which is sure to be rejected, will be adopted in whole or in part by the Assembly; but the manner after which they will be discussed is yet uncertain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 492.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 52. Political.)
My Lord, *Tirnovo, April 3*, 1879.

I HAD the honour yesterday to telegraph to your Lordship that the Report drawn up by the Committee of Revision, having been laid before the Assembly for acceptance as a whole, was, by a majority of the "Liberal" or "Patriotic" party, thrown out in

favour of an amendment that the Assembly itself should examine the Articles of the programme one by one.

The motives for this Resolution, a very important one, and involving a marked change in the character of the Assembly, were: that the Assembly considered the Committee of Revision to have been formed, and its conclusions arrived at, too much under Russian influence; and that some of those conclusions, and in particular that by which proselytism was forbidden, to be decidedly bad.

But the Party, having thus assured its predominance in the Assembly, intends confirming, or even intensifying, every modification proposed by the Committee that bears a "Patriotic" or Liberal sense. Thus, there is no doubt that the first, second, sixth, and, if possible, the seventh modifications, mentioned in my preceding telegram and despatch, will be accepted. The fifth will be in part adopted, in part modified, after a plan which I shall have the honour of explaining in a subsequent despatch. The third will be, as I have already indicated, absolutely rejected, as will also the fourth, though the functions of the Great Assembly will probably be somewhat restricted. The seventh, to which the "Patriotic" leaders mostly incline, will probably be discussed in an Assembly with closed doors: I have reason to expect that it will be carried.

So far as the Assembly itself and its proceedings are concerned, the results of yesterday's sitting are chiefly: the overthrow, for the time, of all Russian preponderance within the Assembly; the complete victory, also for the time, of the "Patriotic" or "Bulgarian" party, which immediately received a large accession of numbers and strength; the hastening of business, as there is every appearance that the Assembly, now almost wholly under the guidance of Zankoff and the other "Patriot" leaders, will lose no time in carrying through its work effectually and thoroughly, before a reaction can be brought about or set in of itself. To these a fourth result, namely, the great discomfiture of the Bishops and clergy, whose entire influence had been given to support the Report of the Committee, may be added.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 493.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 54. Political.)
My Lord, *Tirnova, April 5, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to forward, as explanatory of ideas current in this Principality, a copy of a Memorandum presented to myself and to the other Delegates two days since, and accompanied in each instance by a Note, of which also I inclose a copy. Both documents were received by myself and my colleagues without any expression of opinion as to their value, either in themselves or their results; our common reason for so receiving them being the apprehension of undesirable consequences should they be met by a flat rejection.

I ought here to add that, as the presentation of a Memorandum of the kind was not unexpected, I had, when opportunity offered, previously spoken with those reputed its principal authors, dissuading them from their project, as possibly injurious and at best superfluous. Of this they generally said they were aware, but that public opinion required some measure on their part, and that this was the most innocuous open to them. I also engaged my colleagues to accept no political Memorandum emanating from or in the name of the Assembly, or bearing any East Roumelian or Macedonian signatures. To this they agreed, and I took care that our common resolution should be made as public as possible.

The contents of the inclosed Memorandum are as follows:—

It opens by disclaiming any connection with the actual Assembly or its work, except as a statement made in view of explaining certain dangers with which, in the opinion of the writers, the utility and permanence of that work are threatened.

The first danger is, it asserts, from the too narrow limits assigned to the Principality itself, and its poverty of men and means, with consequent inability to suffice for its own proper maintenance and development, or for the obligations imposed on it by the Treaty of Berlin.

The second danger signalled is from the proximity of Turkish garrisons in the Balkans, which will act, says the Memorandum, as a standing menace to the Principality, and compel it to maintain itself in a constant attitude of defence.

The third danger is that the said garrisons will form centres of refuge for brigands and malefactors, and even of insurrectionary disturbances on the north or Bulgarian side of the Balkans.

The fourth danger is that the comparatively, or absolutely, wretched condition of the Bulgarian inhabitants of East Roumelia and Macedonia will, by national sympathy, produce constant disquietude and agitation, to say the least, among the Bulgarians of the Principality itself.

The fifth danger is that the above-indicated wretched condition will occasion frequent and numerous immigrations of the Bulgarians without, to the great charge and burden of the Principality. Here the Memorandum cites the facts of the recent and still-continuing immigrations from Macedonia, the Adrianople district, &c.

The sixth danger is that these immigrants will create within Bulgaria itself a centre of insurrection and revolt for the neighbouring provinces.

The seventh danger, which is the combined result of the six above indicated, is that the Bulgarian Principality will thus be rendered, in spite of itself, a source of future disturbances, wars, and calamities for Europe at large.

In conclusion, the authors of the Memorandum declare that the national desire, of which they are the exponents, is not so much the territorial expansion of the Principality itself as the extension of similar privileges to the co-tribal population without its frontiers, to the effect, not of derogating from the work inaugurated by the Treaty of Berlin, but of establishing it on a wider and firmer basis.

Follow the signatures of the Bishops—the Greek included—of the Bulgarian Principality, and those of several Bulgarian "notables," some of whom are Presidents or members of Judicial or Administrative Councils, others elective Deputies; but all men of repute and influence. The total number of signatures is 113.

The views set forth in the above document are so well known and have been so often and publicly announced, that any comment or criticism here would be superfluous. I have, therefore, only to add that they are, I believe, a genuine, unprompted, and tolerably exact expression of popular opinion, high and low, throughout the Christian inhabitants, Bulgarian or Greek, of this territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 493.

Memorandum presented by several Bulgarian Notables to the European Delegates ad hoc at Tirnova.

Excellence, *Tirnova, le* $\frac{21\ \text{Mars}}{2\ \text{Avril}}$ 1879.

LES Soussignés, représentants de la Principauté Bulgare, réunis à Tirnovo pour poser les bases de l'organisation politique de cette Principauté, avons eu déjà l'honneur avant de procéder à l'accomplissement de la tâche si difficile et si importante qui nous incombe, de présenter dans la réponse au discours d'ouverture de son Altesse le Commissaire Impérial Russe toutes les difficultés que nous rencontrons dès à présent pour l'organisation solide et durable de la Principauté de Bulgarie, ainsi que nos inquiétudes et nos craintes relativement à son avenir.

Sachant que l'organisation forte et durable de notre pays sera la meilleure garantie d'une paix stable en Orient, tant désirée par l'Europe, nous croyons, réunis en dehors de l'Assemblée, remplir un devoir en portant à la connaissance des Grandes Puissances les causes qui nous font avoir peu de confiance dans la durée de l'ordre que nous avons entrepris d'introduire dans notre pays, ainsi que les craintes que nous sont inspirées sur son avenir, d'une part à raison de la situation si peu avantageuse qui lui a été créé au Congrès de Berlin, et d'autre part, à cause des nouveaux et inévitables troubles qui sont à prévoir dans un avenir très-prochain.

La Bulgarie, dans les limites qui lui ont été assignées par le Traité de Berlin, ne peut avoir les moyens matériels nécessaires pour suffire aux besoins d'un Etat tant soit peu bien organisé, surtout en prenant en considération le peu de fertilité de la partie montagneuse, qui forme plus que la moitié de la Principauté, et la dévastation qui a été telle que pour s'en relever notre patrie aura besoin de longues années. En dehors des lourdes dépenses nécessaires pour l'administration du pays, le Traité de Berlin, indépendamment de la charge qu'il impose à la Principauté Bulgare du paiement de tribut annuel au Sultan pour ses droits de Suzeraineté, la substitue aux obligations très-onéreuses de la Sublime Porte envers les diverses compagnies, sans

parler de la possibilité d'imposer à cette Principauté le devoir de payer une partie de la dette, dont le peuple Bulgare n'a nullement profité.

Les garnisons Turques dans les Balkans, suspendues comme une épée de Damocles sur notre faible Principauté, entraveront son libre développement sous tous les rapports; elles tiendront de plus dans un état d'anxiété et d'alarmes non-seulement la population habitant le midi et le centre de la Principauté, mais les rives même du Danube qui en sont à peine éloignées de 100 kilom. A cause de cette menace continuelle le Gouvernement de la Principauté se verra dans la nécessité de tenir constamment une force armée, qui ne pourra être en proportion avec les ressources dont elle dispose, soit en hommes soit en argent.

Pour qui connaît la haine implacable qui anime le soldat Turc contre tout ce qui est Chrétien, il n'y a pas de doute que ces garnisons seront un refuge de tous les brigands et malfaiteurs; d'autre part, la présence de ces mêmes garnisons ne fera qu'encourager à l'insoumission la population Musulmane de la Principauté, habitué comme elle l'est, à dominer sur les Chrétiens, mais non pas à se soumettre à des autorités, malgré les efforts et les dépenses, pourront et sauront étouffer ces insurrections; mais est-ce de l'intérêt de la Principauté et de l'humanité elle-même d'avoir recours à des moyens de répression?

Les motifs ci-dessus exposés ne sont pas les seuls qui arrêteront le développement de la Principauté de Bulgarie. La plus grande partie de nos conationaux est restée en dehors des limites de notre Principauté. Ces frères à nous sont soumis, les uns plus, les autres moins, à la domination du Sultan. Il n'y a pas de doute que l'incorrigible régime des Turcs forcera les populations Chrétiennes de recourir aux armes pour la défense de leur vie, de leur honneur, et de leurs biens; dans ces tentatives pour leur délivrance ils auront leurs regards constamment tournés vers leurs frères de la Principauté. Il est tout aussi naturel qu'ils trouvent une entière sympathie chez ces derniers, qu'aucune mesure du Gouvernement ne saura empêcher de leur venir en aide: cela est dans le cours naturel des événements, et la même chose est arrivée dans les pays plus forts et organisés depuis plus longtemps.

Les conséquences inévitables de ces troubles seront des émigrations en masse dans la Principauté des populations Chrétiennes des provinces Turques. En ce moment plus de 25,000 femmes, enfants, et vieillards échappés aux derniers massacres, du mois de Décembre de l'année passée, lorsque les troupes régulières du Sultan dévastaient la Macédoine, supportent dans les districts de Sophia les plus grandes privations que l'on puisse imaginer. Il n'y a pas de doute que dans un avenir très-prochain, non-seulement les 60,000 émigrés des environs d'Andrinople qui ont trouvé un refuge dans la Bulgarie du sud (Roumélie Orientale) après l'évacuation de la province par les troupes Russes, afflueront dans la Principauté, mais ils seront suivis par beaucoup d'autres familles, qui y chercheront un asile, lorsque les armées Turques commenceront à traverser en tous sens la Thrace sous divers prétextes. Si les émigrés de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine ont été une grande charge pour les finances de l'Autriche-Hongrie, n'est-il pas sûr que les émigrés en Bulgarie épuiseront complétement les petites ressources de la Principauté Bulgare.

D'un autre côté ces émigrés, forcés de quitter leurs propriétés dans les provinces Turques uniquement pour sauver leur vie seront dans la Principauté un élément de trouble, parce qu'ils chercheront sans cesse, par des conspirations et des révoltes, à délivrer de la domination Turque leurs contrées afin de pouvoir retourner dans leurs foyers. Ce fait s'est produit en Autriche-Hongrie avec les émigrés de Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine, qui ont toujours cherché à retourner chez eux et ont été un des principaux éléments qui ont alimenté l'insurrection dans ces provinces.

Les émigrés dans la Principauté trouveront une pleine et entière sympathie pour leurs tendances parmis leurs frères habitants de la Principauté, lesquels pour longtemps ne pourront pas oublier l'oppression des Turcs; l'appel de nos frères malheureux pour leur venir en aide ne peut pas rester sans écho dans nos cœurs, parce qu'en dehors des liens de nationalité qui nous unissent, le sentiment d'humanité même ne nous permettra pas de rester spectateurs indifférents de leurs souffrances.

Une situation pareille amènera inévitablement de nouvelles complications en Orient, qui compromettront de nouveau la paix à peine rétablie, et il n'y a pas de doute qu'un pareil résultat est contraire tant aux sentiments d'humanité qu'aux intérêts de l'Europe, parce que la paix, que les Grandes Puissances ont voulu rétablir, devient problématique—contraire aux sentiments d'humanité, parce qu'il éclatera de nouveau une guerre des plus terribles, comme sont toutes les guerres en Orient.

Nous ne croyons pas qu'il soit dans les vues de l'Europe de créer un monument de troubles, cimenté de sang et de larmes, et de léguer aux générations futures une

succession de terreurs et de ruines. Tant qu'une différence trop marquée dans les conditions d'existence séparera le frère du frère, et tant que le régime Turc sera en vigueur, peut-on espérer un autre resultat?

Le peuple Bulgare n'a jamais demandé et ne demande pas même aujourd'hui de vastes territoires, en s'appropriant ce qui ne lui appartient pas. Il a à demander et il demande d'être mis, autant que possible, dans les conditions qui puissent lui permettre de vivre tout entier tranquillement et de se développer librement sans porter atteinte aux droits de qui que ce soit.

Ce que nous avons l'honneur de solliciter avec prière de l'Europe, c'est de vouloir bien nous accorder que tous ceux qui appartiennent à notre nationalité soient mis, autant que possible, dans une situation de bien-être, qui comme nous le croyons, nous ont gagné, d'une part, nos souffrances séculaires, et de l'autre les sacrifices de la Russie et la bienveillance de l'Europe; de cette sorte que le développement de nos frères marche simultanément avec le nôtre, que leur progrès accompagne le nôtre, que le commencement de notre bonheur coïncide avec la fin de leurs souffrances.

Ce sont les seules conditions qui poseront une large base de tranquillité et d'ordre suffisants pour assurer une paix durable en Orient, si ardemment désirée par l'Europe. Or, poser la paix sur des bases solides, ne veut pas dire aller contre les dispositions du Traité de Berlin; mais au contraire, cela veut dire compléter et couronner ses dispositions.

En priant votre Excellence de vouloir bien prendre en considération les faits susmentionnés, ainsi que de nos vœux légitimes, nous avons, &c.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 493.

Letter accompanying Memorandum presented to the Delegates at Tirnova.

M. le Délégué, *Tirnova, le* $\frac{22 \text{ Mars}}{3 \text{ Avril}}$, 1879.

UN grand nombre de représentants de la Principauté Bulgare réunis en particulier, ont décidé d'adresser un mémoire aux Grandes Puissances de l'Europe. Une Commission a été nommée à cet effet.

Ce mémoire terminé, nous avons aujourd'hui l'honneur, M. le Délégué, de vous le présenter ci-joint. En vous priant de vouloir bien en faire part le plutôt possible à votre Gouvernement, nous croyons de notre devoir d'ajouter que vu le mandat spécial de notre Assemblée Nationale de s'occuper uniquement de l'élaboration du Statut Organique de la Principauté, le mémoire ci-joint, loin d'émaner de l'Assemblée, a été au contraire décidé, rédigé, et signé par un grand nombre de représentants en dehors de cette Assemblée.

Nous saisissons l'occasion, M. le Délégué, de vous exprimer nos sentiments de respect et de considération, et nous avons, &c.,

Membres de la Commission,

(Signé) MARCO D. BALABANOW.
C. STOILOFF.
Dr. VOULCOVICH.

No. 494.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 21.)

(No. 55. Political.)

My Lord, *Tirnova, April 5*, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copies of a Circular addressed by the Russian Provisional Governor of Rustchuk, the $\frac{14}{26}$th March last, to the Consular authorities within that place and district, and of the reply made by the British Acting Vice-Consul Mr. W. H. Dalziel.

The Circular embodies certain Regulations, chiefly regarding passports, sanctioned by the Imperial Russian Commissioner on the $\frac{25\text{th December, 1878}}{6\text{th January, 1879}}$, but only now promulgated. These Regulations, as your Lordship cannot fail to observe, absolutely ignore the action of the "Capitulations" legally in force within the Ottoman Empire, Bulgaria included.

The reply is in accordance with the instructions given by myself.

I thought it further suitable, after previous consultation with my colleagues, to confer personally on the subject with the Russian Commissioner, taking for basis Article VIII of the Treaty of Berlin, and pointing out the contradiction existing between that Article and the Regulations in question, particularly Nos. 23 and 24.

His Excellency admitted the discrepancy; pleaded, apologetically, ignorance of the particular provisions of the Capitulations; stated that he had directed the effect of the Circular to be suspended till he should have received a Report on the whole subject from Messrs. Lischine and Josefovitch, the former Russian Assistant Political Agent, the latter Russian Consul-General, both men of experience, at present at Sofia, whom he had instructed by telegram and letter to look thoroughly into the question and inform him accordingly; promised that the result should be communicated to me as soon as possible, and begged that till then no further steps should be taken.

I understand that my French and Italian colleagues, having made the same representations as myself, have received a similar answer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 494.

General Akimoff to Vice-Consul Dalziel.

March 12, 1879.

M. le Gérant,

UN règlement sur les passeports, confirmé par son Excellence le Commissaire Impérial en Bulgarie le 23 Decembre de l'année passée, venant d'être mis en vigueur, je me fais un devoir de vous communiquer ci-près les sens exacts des articles concernant les étrangers.

Art. 2. Les étrangers domiciliés ou voyageant en Bulgarie doivent être porteurs d'un passeport delivré par la Puissance dont ils sont les sujets.

Art. 20. Tout étranger arrivant en Bulgarie est tenu de présenter son passeport dans les premiers trois jours de son arrivée dans un chef-lieu de la province, au maître de police; dans une ville de district au chef du district; aussi bien qu'au Consul de la Puissance dont il relève.

Art. 21. Lors de l'enregistrement du passeport d'un étranger chez le maître de police ou chez le chef du district, il sera perçu un droit de 2 fr.

Art. 23. Tout étranger qui séjournera dans le pays sans avoir rempli la formalité annoncée par l'Article 20 payera une amende de 40 fr.

Art. 24. Tout étranger qui séjournera dans le pays sans aucun passeport sera, indépendamment de l'amende sus-annoncée, passible de renvoi de la Bulgarie, et les frais qui en résulteront seront à la charge de qui de droit.

Art. 25. De cette règle seront exemptés ceux des étrangers qui prouveront avoir été privés de leurs passeports par des circonstances de force majeure ou des motifs légaux; dans ce cas, il seront pourvus par l'autorité locale de certificats qui leur serviront pour se procurer un nouveau passeport dans un délai de quatre mois au maximum.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Gouverneur de Rustchuk,
(Signé) Général-Major AKIMOFF.
Le Directeur de la Chancellerie,
Comte KOUTOUSOFF.

Inclosure 2 in No. 494.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to General Akimoff.

Rustchuk, le 2 Avril, 1879.

Excellence,

J'AI l'honneur de vous accuser réception de votre Circulaire relative aux passeports des sujets Britanniques résidents, ou voyageant, en Bulgarie, et de vous informer qui j'aurais soin que les dits sujets Britanniques se conforment aux règlements et usages qui existent sur cette matière à Constantinople et autres lieux de l'Empire Ottoman, mais que toute innovation dans ces règlements et usages doit être soumise à l'approbation de l'autorité supérieure avant qu'elle puisse être accepté.

J'ai lieu de croire que tous les sujets Britanniques résidant dans le district Consulaire sont enregistrés et en possession d'un certificat *ad hoc*, délivré par la Chancellerie; cet

enregistrement a lieu chaque année à partir du 1er Janvier, et aucun renouvellement de cette formalité ne peut être imposé ou réclamé pendant le temps ou le certificat demeure valable.

Dès qu'on m'en fera la demande, je serais toujours disposé à donner les informations nécessaires relativement aux sujets Britanniques.

Je dois aussi respectueusement vous faire remarquer relativement à l'Article 23 que la juridiction légale qui puisse imposer une amende à un sujet Britannique résidant dans ce district Consulaire est la Cour Consulaire, et aussi relativement à l'Article 24 que le Consul et non le Gouvernement local a seul le droit d'expulser des sujets Britanniques.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) W. H. DALZIEL.

No. 495.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 21.)

(No. 56. Political.)

Tirnovo, April 5, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Reply of the Assembly of Notables to the Opening Address of the Imperial Russian Commissioner was, after much discussion and delay, finally drawn up in Bulgarian, with a Russian translation, signed, and presented yesterday.

Besides expressions of assent and compliance with the tenour of the Address itself, and of gratitude towards the Russian Emperor and nation for benefits received, with a general approval of the measures taken thus far in Bulgaria by the Russian Provisional Government, it contains a statement of apprehensions entertained and difficulties foreseen, identical in substance, and almost in words, with that set forth in the Memorandum of which I had the honour to supply an analysis in my despatch No. 54, Political, and of which I need not trouble your Lordship with a repetition.

There is nothing else remarkable or requiring comment either in the substance or in the tone of the Reply. It was formally presented by a Deputation from the Assembly to the Prince at his temporary residence, and was received by him without any pomp of circumstance whatever.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 496.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 21.)

(No. 57. Political.)

Tirnovo, April 7, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Russian corps of occupation in Bulgaria and East Roumelia is at present distributed as follows:—

Divisions 12 and 30, of the 4th Army Corps, stationed in Northern and Eastern Bulgaria, and principally in the district between Shipka, Varna, Silistria, and Rustchuk.

The former of these will embark from Varna on or about the $\frac{13}{25}$th April, and it will be followed by the second at an interval of twelve or fourteen days.

Divisions 5 and 16, of the 5th Army Corps, stationed in East Roumelia. These will be, for the most, moved up to take the place of the two former; embarking, in their turn, at similar intervals of fifteen days, chiefly, like the former, from Varna, some battalions, however, from Bourgas. Their embarkation, commencing about the 20th May, N.S., will be completed on or before the 26th June.

Divisions 31 and 33, of the 12th Army Corps, stationed in South-western Bulgaria, about Sophia and along the Servian frontier. The former of these will embark, probably at Lom, about the 10th July; the latter, by Varna, the 28th July, N.S., when the military evacuation will be complete.

During the same period the artillery and cavalry will be embarked; the latter, consisting of two weak divisions, will take the route from Rustchuk to Reni by the Danube, as also will a few infantry battalions.

No part of the retiring corps of occupation will, according to the plan now adopted, cross Roumanian territory, except so far as the Danube navigation is concerned. The

entire movement is under the orders of Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff, as Commander-in-chief of the corps of occupation, the subordinate command of the two divisions of the 4th Army Corps remaining with General Skobeleff; that of the two divisions of the 9th Army Corps with General Stolipine, who is expected to arrive here this evening on a visit of two or three days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 497.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 58. Political.)
My Lord, *Tirnovo, April 7, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Assembly, in the sittings of Thursday, Friday, and Saturday last, has reviewed the Project of Organic Law submitted to it by the Imperial Russian Commissary, and of which I had the honour of transmitting a translation in my despatches Nos. 15 and 21, Political, up to Article 56, making the following alterations:—

Title.

For "Organic Law," substitute "Constitution."

Chapter I.

Add: "Article 3. The territory of the Principality is subdivided into districts, circles, and communes.

"Art. 4. The administrative details of this division and the system of communal self-government are to be regulated by special legislation."

Chapter II.

Art. 3. Omit: "and is in vassal relation with the Sublime Porte."

Chapter III.

Art. 18. Add: "Sophia to be the residence of the Prince, and the Government capital.

"The coronation to take place in Tirnovo."

Chapter IV.

Art 21. Add: "The Bulgarian flag to be tricolour—white, green, and red, in horizontal stripes."

Chapter V.

Art 22. Add: "In the male line direct;" and "a special law regulates the succession."

Chapter VI.

Art. 27. Omit: "The nearest relatives of the Prince living in Bulgaria."

Chapter VIII.

Art. 33. Substitute for "1,000,000," "600,000."
Art. 35. Cancelled *in toto*.

Chapter IX.

Art. 38. Read: "The Bulgarian Principality, from an ecclesiastical point of view, forms part of the Bulgarian National Church, and depends on the Holy Synod, which is the supreme authority of the Bulgarian Church."

Between Articles 39 and 40 a proposal that proselytism should be forbidden was made; but, no one having come forward to support it, was rejected.

Chapter XII.

Art. 53. Add: "And those born of Bulgarian parents belonging to Bulgarian nationality."

Art 54. To be protocolled. As addition: "All foreigners who have served the country during or since the war can obtain Bulgarian nationality by applying for it within three years.

"Facilities to be afforded to all Bulgarians outside the Principality to obtain Bulgarian nationality.

"The authorities to give this the fullest publication."

Art. 56. Add: "Titles of rank or distinction cannot be instituted in Bulgaria.

"No orders or decorations can be conferred or received except for military service, for which decoration may be granted.

"The purchase or sale of human beings is absolutely prohibited within the Principality.

"Whoever sets foot on Bulgarian territory is *ipso facto* free."

The remaining Articles will be discussed in the ensuing Sessions. Whatever is not changed in the programme is held for adopted. It is thought that ten sittings more, at furthest, will conclude the work.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 498.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 59. Political.)
My Lord, *Rustchuk, April 8, 1879.*

YESTERDAY I had the honour of telegraphing that I was on the point of starting for Constantinople, to arrive there on the 10th instant, returning to Tirnovo by the morning of the 18th.

In another paragraph I reported that the Assembly had in that day's sitting concluded the arrangements for the election of the Prince; and that the election itself would probably take place by the end of the present month. The only candidates spoken of with favour are Prince Reuss, Prince Battenberg, and Prince Waldemar of Denmark. I added, that in case Her Majesty's Government had any preference for any candidate in particular, I respectfully begged to be instructed accordingly.

The arrangements above spoken of consist in the election of an entirely new Assembly, three members to each group of 10,000 male inhabitants; the elections to be held at once, during the sitting of the present Assembly; of which, however, it is probable that a considerable number will be re-elected.

The measure is levelled against the large proportion of members *de droit*, and direct nominations in the present Assembly, which is hence regarded as not a genuine representation of the people. Indirectly, but avowedly, it strikes at Russian influence.

As to the candidates mentioned, I think, with the reserve necessary on so obscure a topic, that Prince Reuss is, so far as the Bulgarians are concerned, the most popular of the three; but that Battenberg is more favoured by the Russians. His morganatic parentage is, however, against him. Were Prince Waldemar to be seriously proposed and supported, he would, I think, have the option of acceptance, if the post seemed worthy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 499.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 5. Political.)
My Lord, *Aleppo, April 3, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch I have addressed to Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary *ad interim* at Constantinople, with reference to the affair of Zeitoun and the interception of my letters by the Governor-General.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure in No. 499.

Consul Henderson to Mr. Malet.

Aleppo, March 24, 1879.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to telegraph to your Excellency to-day that—

"Omer Pasha intends sending an Acting Governor to Zeitoun, and liberating a number of the prisoners immediately he assumes the government. Kiamil insists on acting as long as he remains; I hear he intends leaving on Saturday. I have ascertained that Kiamil Pasha has been seizing openly and retaining letters addressed to me, and has sent to Porte a false translation of one from Zeitoun. I beg that Embassy should claim possession of these letters, and take cognizance of this matter."

Omer Pasha called on me this morning to talk over the state of affairs at Zeitoun, and to consult with me as to what immediate steps should be taken to restore tranquillity there. I suggested the appointment of a Kaïmakam at once, and that he should take with him thirty or forty zaptiehs from Marash. I also suggested that it would be desirable to liberate some of the prisoners at Marash to give confidence to the Christians, to show them that the Government really intended to treat them well, and would no longer sacrifice them to the obstinacy of a fanatical Governor-General.

Omer Pasha asked me to recommend a person for the post of Kaïmakam, and I suggested the appointment of Husni Effendi, whom I have every reason to believe to be honest, upright, and capable.

He belongs to one of the best Arab families at Aleppo, and was elected as one of the members for Aleppo in the recent Ottoman Parliament. He speaks French, and is personally acquainted with Sir Henry Layard, having enjoyed the hospitalities of the Embassy along with Ahmet Vefic Pasha. Husni Effendi had some scruples in accepting the appointment as his former posts had been of a much higher character than that of Zeitoun, and he thought his acceptance of it might prejudice his advancement.

On pointing out to him that the appointment was only temporary, and that if his provisional government of Zeitoun was successful it might be for his future advantage, he consented to go, and leaves on Wednesday next. I have every confidence in his speedily restoring order at Zeitoun, and in his obtaining the confidence and sympathy of the Christian population.

Omer Pasha informed me confidentially that Kiamil Pasha had shown him letters addressed to me which he had seized ("attrapé"), opened, and retained. He in particular mentioned one from Zeitoun, signed by several of the inhabitants there, praying me "to help them," and stating that they "awaited my orders."

Omer Pasha added that Kiamil Pasha had distorted these expressions, and had telegraphed a malicious translation of this letter to the Porte.

The information given to me by Omer Pasha throws some light on Kiamil Pasha's motive for visiting me a few days ago, and telling me that I should have to go to Constantinople before he did.

I presume the letters stolen by Kiamil Pasha to be written in Armenian, and I am informed that his translator and accomplice in this abominable perfidy is a Roman Catholic Armenian named Sikeyass Effendi, who accompanied him to Zeitoun, and who was his adviser and instrument in all his cruelties to the Eutichian Armenians. Kiamil Pasha recently created him a paid member of the Commercial Tribunal, in recognition of these services, and I hear that on his Excellency's recommendation other favours are in store for him.

That Kiamil Pasha should be guilty of such detestable conduct as stealing letters does not surprise me, as it is only in keeping with his character, and I would not be surprised to hear that, with the aid of this accomplice, many of the letters in question have been fabricated by himself.

I would most respectfully request that the Embassy should claim possession of all letters addressed to me which have been intercepted by him, and that your Excellency should have those written in Armenian translated and examined.

I place this matter in your Excellency's hands with every confidence that Kiamil Pasha's conduct shall not go unpunished, and I would beg you to take into your consideration whether it is proper that Kiamil Pasha's accomplice should continue to occupy a judicial position on the most important Commercial Tribunal in Aleppo, where British claims of considerable magnitude are daily judged.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

No. 500.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 21.*)

(No. 6. Political.)

Aleppo, April 3, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a further despatch I have addressed to Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary *ad interim* at Constantinople, with reference to the affairs of Zeitoun and Marash.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure in No. 500.

Consul Henderson to Mr. Malet.

Aleppo, March 29, 1879.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to transmit to your Excellency to-day a telegram of which the following is a copy:—

"The Porte has ordered Omer Pasha to send back old Kaïmakam to Zeitoun, and place a battalion of soldiers at his disposal; I have persuaded Omer Pasha to refuse to send him back, and to send in his place Husni Effendi, a person in whom I have confidence. Should Porte disapprove I shall let you know by telegraph. Some disturbances, caused by Circassians, have taken place at Marash, and American missionaries have left. Omer Pasha assumed Government yesterday, and immediately sent severe orders to Military Commandant to punish robbers and maintain public tranquillity with troops if necessary."

Omer Pasha informed me last night that he had received a telegram from the Porte ordering him to reinstate the old Kaïmakam at Zeitoun, and to place a battalion of troops at his disposal.

I was surprised at this information, as I was aware that the misconduct of this official had been fully brought to the notice of the Porte, and that his general ill-treatment of the Christians, and particularly the Christian prisoners, was such as to altogether preclude the thought of his reappointment. Omer Pasha agreed with me that there might be some mistake, and that the carrying out of this instruction would, in all probability, cause bloodshed, and would certainly have an effect quite contrary to that which we presumed the Porte intended, and he therefore declined to carry it out, and telegraphed to the Porte that he would appoint Husni Effendi temporarily to Zeitoun, and would send him there with as little delay as possible. Should the Porte disapprove of Omer Pasha's action in this matter, which I do not anticipate, I shall inform you by telegraph.

I have every hope in the success of Husni Effendi's mission, and I am sure that had the late Governor-General, instead of endeavouring to keep up the fiction that the Zeitounlis were in revolt, sent such a man as Husni Effendi to Zeitoun two months ago, the inhabitants would have been saved an immense deal of suffering, and the lives recently sacrificed would have been spared.

At Marash the Circassians have been causing great trouble, and yesterday they forcibly entered the house of Carabet Agha (the Protestant who was sent to Zeitoun to liberate the Kaïmakam), and robbed him of a considerable amount of valuable property. It is said that they tried to strangle him, that they seized and ill-treated his wife, and robbed her of all her jewels. Some further unimportant disturbances also took place, and the American missionaries quitted Marash for Aintab.

Omer Pasha at once issued the most severe orders to the Military Commandant to seize the guilty persons and to make an example of them, and, if necessary, to make use of the troops to repress all disorder and maintain tranquillity. I believe these orders have had the desired effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

No. 501.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 21.)

(No. 110.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, April* 7, 1879.

WITH reference to my telegram to your Lordship, dated a month ago, March 7th, I have kept Her Majesty's Government informed of the proceedings on the subject of the revision of Article VII of the Constitution.

As anticipated by me in the despatch above referred to, the Resolution required for that purpose by the Roumanian Constitution was read a third and last time in both Chambers on the 3rd instant.

Owing to some financial questions not having been previously settled, discussion on this Resolution had to be deferred till Saturday, April 5th, when it was resumed, and finally adopted early on Sunday morning, in the Chamber of Deputies, by 72 votes against 33; and in the Senate by 40 votes against 6.

Both Chambers met again at noon, yesterday, the 6th instant, when Prince Charles I closed the Session by a speech from the throne, and their dissolution followed at once.

This important measure of reform in execution of Article XLIV of the Treaty of Berlin may be now considered as definitively recommended by the Three Estates for the adoption of the Roumanian nation.

I may take this opportunity of noticing, for your Lordship's information, a difference existing at this stage of the proceedings between the Serbian and Roumanian Constitutions, which makes it probable that this question will be, after all, settled at Bucharest earlier than at Belgrade.

In Serbia any number of ordinary Sessions of the Skuptchina may be held between the Resolutions and the Convocation of a Grand Assembly. This is not the case in Roumania, where the elections for Chambers of Revision must be proceeded with at once, and without delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 502.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 21.)

(No. 112.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, April* 10, 1879.

THE Government here have lost no time in appointing the dates for the general election, and as the registers are completed annually in the month of March and a certain number of days are allowed for appeals to the Law Courts, the earliest day that could be selected was the 9th May for the commencement of electoral work.

The electors are divided by law in four classes, and the last amongst these being the most numerous has to commence the proceedings by appointing delegates.

April 27 and 28
May 9 and 10 are assigned for this purpose.

After that the Deputies are to be elected by each Class as follows:—

By Class I on May 15;
" II " 17;
" III " 19;
" IV " 21.

The Senators are to be elected on the 23rd and 26th May, and the Universities of Bucharest and Jassy are to close the general election by polling for their members on the 27th May.

The new Chambers will thus be able to meet early in the month of June.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 503.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 21.)

(No. 114. Secret.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, April* 11, 1879.

THE gentleman who is temporarily in charge of the French Agency here, Monsieur de Bacourt, came to see me yesterday, and I gathered from his conversation—for he did not impart to me any direct information—that there was something fresh on his mind in connection with the Jewish question.

M. Campineano, the Foreign Minister, called subsequently, and confirmed fully my suppositions.

M. de Bacourt had just been to see his Excellency, and though he did not admit having received any instructions from his Government, he showed a manifest desire to elicit some assurances as to the intentions of this Government with regard to the status of persons of the Jewish creed, after the obstacle to their enjoying perfect equality has been constitutionally removed.

A few of the gentlemen who have charge of former political agencies at Bucharest, and, amongst these, Monsieur de Bacourt (more perhaps than any other), for some unexplained reason, see much more of the leaders of the Opposition than of the actual Ministers of Prince Charles.

Owing to this, even their official intercourse is rather strained and embarrassed, and it may be feared that the information which some of these gentlemen are able to give their Governments may be unconsciously affected by this, and by the drawbacks inherent to an official position, not only ill-defined, but also partaking of a temporary character very different from the one occupied by Chargé d'Affaires, *ad interim*, in regular missions.

Every time one of us comes into official contact with any of the Roumanian Ministers, we unwillingly recall to their memory the absence of regular diplomatic intercourse on the part of our Governments.

This mode of transacting business is no doubt unsatisfactory, and though, for my part, I have been so fortunate as not to suffer hitherto from it in my constant relations, whether private or official, I cannot help fearing that the conclusion of a commercial Treaty satisfactory to the British interests affected by it, and to which I have devoted so much attention jointly with Mr. Percy Sanderson, may be delayed too long on that account.

I have had occasion to point out to your Lordship previously that the Roumanian Government consider that they have a right to be treated by France and England in the same way as Serbian has been; and, since they may be said to have not only paved the way for amending their Constitution, but to have actually summoned new Assemblies for that special purpose, they are doubly sensitive to the difference between Belgrade and Bucharest, and to what they deem to be an invidious distinction on the part of Cabinets which they have hitherto considered as friendly to their country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 504.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 21.)

(No. 115. Secret.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, April* 12, 1879.

DURING the late war, the 3rd Section of the Imperial Russian Chancery, which has charge of all police matters in that Empire, had organized a special branch office at Bucharest in which adventurers from all countries were temporarily employed as detectives or secret agents. All these have been now dismissed.

Amongst them was a Pole of the name of Voitkiévitch, who had served in the French army in 1870, had received the Cross of the Legion of Honour, had been active in Servia in 1876, had subsequently visited London, and had swindled Lady Lechmere there of some money, but had been discovered by her as unreliable before he got possession of the proceeds of a collection made there for the Servians. This person was employed by Russia in Bulgaria and Macedonia, and, now that he is without employment, he offered for sale some notes referring to the way in which the recent insurrection was got up in the latter province.

These notes were shown to me, and they are probably on the whole accurate, as they only represent the way in which the Macedonian insurrection was got up and kept up by Russian agents; and I should have been willing to purchase a certain number of copies if Voitkiévitch would print them, but as a manuscript they have no importance, as they confirm only what has been known all along by every one who has paid proper attention to the subject, and are purely retrospective.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 505.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 117.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, April 14, 1879.*

AS is but natural, the Roumanian Government is becoming extremely anxious to see the Arab-Tabia question settled in their favour after a delay of so many months.

They hope that the Six Powers whose Commissioners agreed, after an attentive study of the subject, to adopt that boundary at their final sitting, will uphold that decision, and will induce Russia to accept it definitely; so as to enable the Roumanians to reoccupy Arab-Tabia at the same time that the Russians evacuate Silistria, and not leave this bone of contention between Roumania and Bulgaria.

Having occasion to refer again to this subject, I trust I may be allowed to set right an impression produced on Sir Henry Elliot by a telegram of mine dated the 15th February, 1879, where I spoke of the complete destruction of the works at Arab-Tabia.

I must have expressed myself not sufficiently clearly in that telegram, for Her Majesty's Ambassador has, to my great regret, derived from it the impression that when that had been accomplished I thought Arab-Tabia might be left in the hands of the Bulgarians, as having no longer any strategical importance.

His Excellency, in that most interesting despatch, gives your Lordship the views of Count Andrassy on this matter, and I beg to concur with them in every particular.

If your Lordship will kindly take the trouble of referring to the despatches written by me on the 12th and 17th February, I hope your Lordship will be satisfied that I have never lost sight of the importance of Arab-Tabia for Roumania, and of the necessity to let her have it permanently, and of the danger which would accrue from giving so commanding a position to the Bulgarians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 506.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 118.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, April 14, 1879.*

THE different reports which reach Bucharest about negotiations between the Powers on the subject of Eastern Roumelia are attracting very considerable attention here.

Next to Turkey, Roumania has an immense interest in seeing Bulgaria Proper pacified and developing itself quietly, free from agitation and Russian intrigues.

Any prolongation of even a partial occupation of either slopes of the Balkans by a Russian force, beyond the 3rd May next, would be viewed with alarm and displeasure here, unless an assurance were given at the same time that this force would return home by sea at the appointed time.

The Roumanians are of opinion that the Powers assembled in Congress at Berlin have stretched a point by sanctioning Russian troops passing through their territory up to the 3rd August next, under Article XXII of the Treaty, without their having been consulted on the subject; but they would, no doubt, object very strongly, and not without reason, to any disposition conferring on any foreign Power new rights of passage in future.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 507.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 120.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, April 15, 1879.*

FROM information I have received, it appears that, except some quite unimportant outwork on the river, the fortifications at Widdin continue in exactly the same condition as they were under the Turks, and that nothing is being done towards their demolition.

The same thing may be said of Rustchuk, and it does not appear that any commencement has been made to carry out the stipulations of Article XI of the Treaty of Berlin as regards the destruction of any of the Danubian fortresses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 508.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 108.)
My Lord, *St Petersburgh, April 14, 1879.*

WITH reference to Sir Henry Drummond Wolff's telegram of the 12th instant, I have the honour of inclosing, for your Lordship's information, a semi-official letter I wrote yesterday to M. de Giers.

His Excellency subsequently called upon me and frankly admitted the justice of my observations. He said that he could not believe that any such project could have been contemplated; that he would make further inquiries, and if necessary forbid its execution.

His language in reference to the alleged expulsion of the Mahommedan population from their homes by the Christians was equally satisfactory, and he promised to write to the Russian authorities in Eastern Roumelia upon this subject also.

He further informed me that M. de Schepeleff had just arrived with a great deal of interesting information.

M. de Giers has evidently been made very uneasy by M. de Schepeleff's Reports, and now understands better than he did before the critical character of the situation arising from the action of the secret societies and other agitators in Eastern Roumelia. He seems convinced of the necessity of sending some person of authority and standing from hence to superintend the transition period now impending. He thinks that such an official, coming straight from the Emperor's presence, would speak with more effect than any of the Russian Agents who have hitherto been connected with affairs upon the spot.

I heartily applauded this idea, and made him understand—now that Her Majesty's Government had shown such readiness to comply with all the conditions which Russia had declared to be necessary to the peaceful evacuation of the Balkan Peninsula and the successful introduction of the new régime—that the responsibility for the result lay with Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 508.

The Earl of Dufferin to M. de Giers.

My dear M. de Giers, *British Embassy, April 2/14, 1879.*

I CALLED upon you to-day, and had hoped to have caught you this afternoon; but I can well understand that the event of the morning should have occupied all your time and attention.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff has reported to Her Majesty's Government that a project is being entertained by the Russian Administration in Eastern Roumelia to "mobilize" some of the bodies of armed citizens of the province who have associated themselves together in what are called "gymnastic societies," and that bands of this description are to be sent to the Rhodope district. I would venture to call your attention to the dangers which may arise out of these proceedings.

There is nothing which the Russian Government has so earnestly deprecated as the employment by the Porte of irregular troops, and more than once His Highness the Chancellor has expressed to me his detestation of forces of this description. These objections certainly are not likely to prove less applicable to these armed gymnastic associations, whom the Mahommedan population of the province will naturally be disposed to regard as mere "partizans," and not as the legitimate guardians of peace and order.

Within a very few weeks we may expect to see promulgated the new Constitution elaborated by the European Commission, and the irregular armed bodies forming these gymnastic clubs will be a description of force unknown to that Constitution.

Is it not very undesirable that unauthorized associations of this description, objectionable in themselves and out of harmony with the new régime, should be permitted still further to complicate the administrative problems now awaiting solution in Eastern Roumelia?

There is another circumstance, not altogether disconnected with this subject, to which I would venture to draw your attention. There seems to be unmistakable evidence of a concerted intention on the part of the Christian inhabitants of certain districts in Eastern Roumelia to drive their Mahommedan fellow-citizens from their homes. The number of Mahommedan refugees that have recently come crowding into Philippopolis illustrates only too plainly the effects of the *mot d'ordre* which seems to have been issued to this effect by the local agitators, whose aim it would appear to be to impede to their utmost the settlement guaranteed by the Treaty of Berlin.

When we consider how inextricably intermingled are the Christian and Mahommedan populations throughout the East, it is evident that, if there is one thing more fraught with mischief than another, it is the expulsion, whether under stress of terror or any other motive, of the scattered sections of one community by those of the other.

In drawing your attention to these considerations, there is no need for me to assure you that I am fully sensible of the earnest desire of the Russian Government to do everything in its power to prevent acts of folly and of injustice of this description, which are sure to prove as prejudicial to the interests of the Christian population of the East as to those of any other section of its inhabitants.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 509.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 111.)
St. Petersburgh, April 9, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to state that, in obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday's date, I called upon Prince Gortchacow and stated to him that Her Majesty's Government had taken into their consideration the suggestions advanced by his Highness during our conversation on the 6th instant, and that they were anxious to consult, as far as possible, the views of His Imperial Majesty, provided they were met in a similar conciliatory spirit; that of course the Porte could not be asked to strip itself of any of the rights assigned to it by the Treaty of Berlin; and that in the presence of any grave disturbances in Eastern Roumelia, threatening the authority of the Governor-General or the peace of the province, it would have to fall back upon the methods assigned to it by Europe for the vindication of its own supremacy; but that, with this qualification, Her Majesty's Government were prepared to press upon the Porte the advisability of not insisting upon the stationing of Turkish troops at Ichtiman, nor upon garrisoning Bourgas until after the Russian army should have evacuated the Balkan Peninsula.

On the other hand, inasmuch as it was of vital importance that the labours of the Balkan Delimitation Commission should be concluded with the utmost dispatch, Her Majesty's Government must ask the Imperial Cabinet, in return, to agree to the introduction of the majority principle for the determination of the interminable disputes which would be likely to arise in the bosom of a Commission charged with so complicated a task, and that it must be understood that the willingness of the British Government to meet the views of Russia in the respects already referred to must be considered as conditional upon its concurrence in the foregoing suggestion, as of course the Porte could not be expected to postpone the exercise of its right to garrison the Balkan until

after the delimitation was complete, as suggested by his Highness, if the obstinacy of a single Commissioner could indefinitely delay the conclusion of the business.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 510.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 112.)
St. Petersburgh, April 10, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 111 of yesterday's date, I beg to state that M. de Giers has informed me that three days ago a Circular was sent from St. Petersburgh to the Powers, expressing the willingness of Russia to accept the majority vote in the Delimitation Commissions in respect of all matters of detail, but contending that points involving any large principle of interpretation should be left to the consideration of the Cabinets.

M. de Giers illustrated his meaning by stating that, with reference to the boundary between Roumelia and Bulgaria, the Russian Government considers that "the principal range of the Great Balkans," the phrase used in the Treaty of Berlin, would mean "the water-shed of the chain," and that as this view touched one of those principles of interpretation, it could not be relegated to a majority of voices in the Commission.

On the other hand, as the Treaty indicated that the frontier was to be "defensible" by Turkey, it would be for the majority of the Commission (as I understood him) to decide whether here and there the strategic exigencies of the contours might not require the exact line of the water-shed to be departed from or overpassed.

I subsequently saw Count Schouvaloff, who, in alluding to the view taken by Sir Lintorn Simmons of this question, described it as having been considered untenable by almost all the Plenipotentiaries at the Congress.

I asked him if this were so, why he was unwilling to let a majority decide the point. He said "that things had altered since the Berlin Congress. Now, perhaps, all Europe would be against us, and though, under those circumstances, we might not be able to continue our resistance, we should at all events be given an opportunity of protesting, which would not be the case if we had already consented to submit to the decision of the majority of a Commission."

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 511.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury—(Received April 21.)

(No. 115.)
St. Petersburgh, April 15, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatches Nos. 165 and 168 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to report that, in a note dated yesterday, I informed the Russian Government of the appointment of Captain Sale as Her Majesty's Commissioner for the Montenegrin frontier, and of the appointment of Captain Anderson, Royal Engineers, to succeed Major Wilson as Her Majesty's Commissioner for the Servian boundary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 512.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 210. Secret.)
Berlin, April 16, 1879.

My Lord,

PRINCE BISMARCK, who in conversation with diplomatists has been unusually reserved of late on foreign policy, spoke a few nights since with wonted freedom on some of the questions of the day to a friend, who confided to me what follows:—

Prince Bismarck, he said, was not free from apprehension in regard to the turn affairs were taking again in Turkey. His Highness asserted that in Russia the war party were exercising greater influence over the Czar and his Chancellor than the peace party. No doubt, he said, the war party owed their present strength to having modified their tactics from war to a waiting game, but they were merely backing at present to take a longer leap in the future.

They were for strictly carrying out the Berlin Treaty, so as to avoid quarrels with England, but they were also for lingering in Turkey and on the frontiers as long as possible, so as to control the movements of Austria, whose present policy excited their suspicion.

Andrassy's head had been turned by his success at the Congress, and by his intimacy with England.

His success in securing Bosnia for Austria at the Congress had confirmed him in his belief that he is the greatest statesman living, and his intimacy with England that he can effect in the future further occupations in Turkey with equal success.

Andrassy, he went on to say, was so bent on an occupation policy that in pressing him, Bismarck, four times to support an Austrian part occupation of Eastern Roumelia, he had shown a considerable want both of skill and tact, for he had shown his cards to Russia and had offended him, Bismarck, by his importunities.

Andrassy ought to have known better. He might be an orator and even a lawyer, but he was not a statesman, as his attempts to emancipate himself from the "Drei-Kaiserbund" sufficiently proved.

The game of Russia would be to find every possible excuse for keeping within easy reach of Austria on the frontier of Turkey, and prevent or forestall any future attempt of Austria to occupy Turkish territory.

Russia well knew that she was a match for Austria single-handed, but the problem was how to detach England from Austria under existing circumstances.

That Russia was preparing for all eventualities resulted from the fact that she was organizing twenty-four new battalions, ordering stores, ammunition, and material of war, and seeking a loan in France, Belgium, and Holland.

The Russian war party would be careful to keep on peaceful terms with England by gaining time, but they foresaw clearly that the coming struggle must be with Austria, and for that they were preparing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 513.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 21.)

(No. 231.)
Vienna, April 18, 1879.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship will have been informed by Mr. Palgrave of the treatment to which the Austro-Hungarian Consul at Widdin was lately subjected by the Bulgarian authorities and the Russian Commander at that place.

I am informed that, under instructions from St. Petersburgh, the latter was immediately removed from his post, and that at the same time it was intimated to Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff that the Bulgarians must be given to understand that the Capitulations were not to be summarily disregarded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 514.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 21.)

(No. 232.)
Vienna, April 18, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the translation of a supposed petition from the Christian Voivodes of Bosnia to Count Andrassy of which a copy is inclosed in Mr. Gould's despatch No. 81, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that no such document has been received at the Imperial Foreign Office, where it is believed to be a forgery concocted in Servia.

It was lately published in a Vienna newspaper, and inquiry was consequently made without leading to the discovery of the existence of any such document, or of the persons by whom it professed to be signed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 515.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 21.)

(No. 233. Confidential.)
Vienna, April 18, 1879.

My Lord,

BARON ORCZY, while speaking this afternoon of the nomination of Aleko Pasha as Governor-General of East Roumelia, alluded to the possibility of his being selected by the Bulgarians as their Prince on account of his Bulgarian origin, although he added that he scarcely looked upon it being likely to occur.

I remarked that it was to be remembered that the choice of the Bulgarians required to be confirmed by the Sultan with the assent of the Powers, and I did not believe that Her Majesty's Government would be at all inclined to acquiesce in a nomination evidently intended to defeat the arrangements made by the Treaty of Berlin, and I hoped that Count Andrassy would not be more so.

I had accidentally learnt, within the last few days, that the German Embassy had been showing an extreme interest in the question of the appointment of Aleko Pasha as Governor of East Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 516.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 21.)

(No. 235.)
Vienna, April 18, 1879.

My Lord,

WHEN I informed Baron Orczy that your Lordship had asked for a further definition of the proposal in the Russian Circular that the Boundary Commission should decide questions of detail, but not of principle, by a majority of votes, he said that no Circular on the subject had been communicated to the Austro-Hungarian Government.

Baron Langenau had reported a week ago that it was drawn up, but M. Novikow said he had not received it, and could only imagine that it must have been accidentally forgotten to be sent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 517.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 21.)

(No. 237.)
Vienna, April 18, 1879.

My Lord,

IN reply to a question I put to him to day, Baron Orczy said that it was understood that the Montenegro Frontier Commission should meet at Cettigné on the 25th instant.

I observed that this did not seem the best place, if it should have the effect of causing the Montenegrin Commissioner to preside over the meetings, and I thought it would be better if Ragusa could be substituted for it.

His Excellency answered that as the Russian Government had shown some desire for the Commission to assemble at Cettigné, there did not appear to be any good grounds for objecting; though the Prince of Montenegro was not particularly anxious about it, as he anticipated some difficulty in finding suitable accommodation in his capital for the Commissioners.

When I asked whether he knew what provision was to be made for the security of the Commissioners when carrying out their duty in the Gusinje country, he said he presumed the Prince of Montenegro must do what was necessary to ensure it. The Porte obviously could not do so, for it had not a functionary, a soldier, or a policeman in the

district; and, if the disposition of the inhabitants is at all such as is represented, it appears extremely doubtful whether it will be possible for the Commission to execute that portion of its work.

Captain Sale, who arrived here a few days ago and is waiting for his Commission, has been informed of the date and place of meeting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 518.

Count Károlyi to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(Private.) *Belgrave Square, April 20, 1879.*

Dear Lord Salisbury,

MANY thanks for your having had the kindness to send me copies of your last instructions to Lord Dufferin. It interested me extremely to be thoroughly informed of the present state of your negotiations with Russia about Eastern Roumelia.

I have received yesterday a telegram from Count Andrassy, according to which we have agreed with Russia that the Delimitation Commission for Montenegro shall assemble on the 25th instant at Cettinjé. I am instructed to communicate this to your Government, and to ask whether you will be inclined to send your Commissioner in time to that place of meeting.

Our Delegate has already received orders to be in readiness.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS KÁROLYI.

No. 519.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 351?.) *Constantinople, April 20, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

THE Austrian Ambassador went at 11 o'clock to-day to the Porte, by appointment, to sign Convention. He saw Imperial Iradé authorizing the signature on the table, but the Minister for Foreign Affairs with much embarrassment, and after long delay, said that he was ordered not to sign until a further communication came from the Sultan, and requested the Ambassador to come at 2 to-morrow. The Ambassador replied that he should not return till he received information that all was ready, and that signature would take place immediately on his arrival.

The German Ambassador has officially urged the Sultan to permit signature, and the Russian Ambassador, in an interview yesterday, represented to His Majesty that he had no choice but to authorize it.

No. 520.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 352.) *Constantinople, April 20, 1879.*
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram No. 26, I learn on inquiry at the Porte that all the Powers have accepted Aleko Pasha.

No. 521.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 6.) *Foreign Office, April 21, 1870, 8 A.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

YOURS 148.

Mine to Dufferin of Tuesday, April 8th, Nos. 19 and 20, which Malet will show you if you ask him, contain our latest proposals to Russia. We have had nothing since but an inconclusive discussion respecting decision by majority.

No. 522.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 21, 1879, 8·15 A.M.*

YOURS, April 19th, No. omitted.

I have read carefully Sir H. Layard's speech. He declares that line of the Balkan is to be maintained, but there is no word about the occupation of it by Turkish troops.

No. 523.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 63.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 21, 1879.*

CAPTAIN SALE, who leaves this morning for Cettinjé, has remarked to me that his Commission and instructions only make mention of Commissioners of Treaty Powers, but not of Montenegrin Commissioner, and asked whether he would be justified in recognizing the latter.

I said that, judging by what had been done on the Servian Boundary Commission, I had no doubt of its being intended that there should be a Montenegrin, but that I would communicate with your Lordship, and that you would telegraph to him if it was not meant.

He asked also whether the reference in his Commission to the XIXth Article of Treaty was an authorization to discuss any points mentioned in it as well as line of frontier.

I said that I understood duty of the Commission to be confined to fixing of frontier, and that every other question would be beyond its attributions.

No. 524.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 353.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 21, 1879.*

IN answer to your telegram No. 23, Mr. Harrison refers to his despatch of the 4th February, as containing report announced in Sir H. Layard's No. 72.

Mr. Harrison thinks it unnecessary that he should remain here more than four weeks longer.

No. 525.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 354.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 21, 1879.*

THE message from the Council to the Sultan, recommending the nomination of Aleko Pasha, also requested permission for the return of Rustem Pasha to the Lebanon. The Sultan replied to the latter part that he wished Rustem Pasha to remain here for the present. Rustem Pasha fears that the Sultan may wish to give him some post in the Ministry, or near his person. His Excellency is very anxious to return to the Lebanon, and has asked me to urge the Porte to allow him to do so. It is very desirable that he should go back to the Lebanon. May I make representation to the Porte in the name of Her Majesty's Government?

Rustem Pasha has called my attention to an article in the French "Débats" of the 12th instant, and in speaking of it he said that the National party mentioned is a party in favour of establishment of an Arabian kingdom, and that he believes the article to be inspired by that party. His Excellency believes that M. Fournier is entirely in his favour, but he has doubts about M. Waddington.

No. 526.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 21.)

(No. 355.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 21, 1879.

THE Austrian Convention was signed to-day at 4 P.M.

No. 527.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, April* 21, 1879.

ACCORDING to latest official intelligence, Albanians referred to in my telegram of the 18th, about 1,000 in number, well armed and led, still remain on Servian territory, occupy strong position on the heights at Maskovee. Several brigades of Servian troops, with numerous artillery, are preparing to surround and attack them.

Remonstrances have been addressed to the Porte, which is accused of permitting and conniving at incursion, in order to prevent demarcation of boundary—the real cause being, probably, one alluded to in my despatch No. 56.

(Above communicated to Constantinople.)

No. 528.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 21.)

(No. 151.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 21, 1879.

LORD DONOUGHMORE telegraphs that General Stolipine has given stringent orders that Aleko Pasha should be well received, stating that, although his appointment has received the assent of the Porte, he is the choice of Russia.

No. 529.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 21.)

(No. 49 ?.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April* 21, 1879.

THE Emperor leaves for Livadia on Thursday next. It would be well to get East Roumelia negotiation now hanging on Delimitation question settled before he goes.

No. 530.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.**

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 21, 1879, 3·50 P.M.

MR. GOULD has been authorized, by telegraph, to present his credentials as Minister Resident, stating that Her Majesty recognizes the independence of Servia, in the confidence that the measures taken by the Legislature for the removal of religious disabilities, as stipulated by Treaty of Berlin, will be completed by the Greater Skuptchina.

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* Also to Sir A. Paget, Lord Odo Russell, Sir H. Elliot, Mr. Malet, and the Earl of Dufferin.

No. 531.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 21, 1879.

PLEASE inform Captain Sale that it has been agreed by the Austrian and Russian Governments that the Montenegrin Boundary Commission shall meet at Cettinjé on the 25th instant.

No. 532.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 21, 1879.

YOU should mention that the question I begged you yesterday to ask Andrassy was confidential.

No. 533.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 21, 1879.

IN answer to your No. 28, inform Colonel Siborne, and ask him to take steps accordingly.

No. 534.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 39.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 21, 1879, 6 P.M.

I HOPE certainly to let you have an answer by Wednesday morning. I am almost certain we shall agree substantially to your formula. It is understood, of course, that this formula is adopted on condition Turk agrees not to occupy any point on frontier between Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia till the frontier is delimitated, or till the end of this year's working season, whichever occurs first.

No. 535.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 217.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April* 21, 1879.

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 46 of the 20th instant, in which you suggest that, in order to do away with the words "strategical" and "tactical," which are capable of misconstruction, a formula should be proposed to the Russian Government in the following terms:—

"It shall be an instruction to the Delimitation Commission to take the watershed as their guide in marking off the line of demarcation, except where deviations may be necessary to secure a defensible frontier to Turkey according to the terms of the Treaty of Berlin, such deviations to be determined by the majority of the Commission."

I hope to send you a definite reply by Wednesday morning. Meanwhile I may say that the above formula will, in all probability, be substantially accepted by Her Majesty's Government.

It is, of course, understood that it will be adopted on the condition that the Porte agrees not to occupy any point on the frontier between Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria until the operations of the Delimitation Commission are completed, or until the end of the working season for this year has arrived, whichever occurs first.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 536.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.[a]

(No. 538.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April* 21, 1879.

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that Mr. Gould has received instructions by telegraph authorizing him to present his credentials as Her Majesty's Minister Resident at Belgrade, and requesting him to state at the same time that Her Majesty recognizes the independence of Servia, in the confidence that the measures taken by the Legislature for the removal of religious disabilities, as stipulated by the Treaty of Berlin, will be completed by the Greater Skuptchina.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 537.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 250.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 21, 1879.

I APPROVE your having informed Captain Sale, as you report in your telegram of to-day (No. 63), that the duty of the Montenegrin Frontier Commission was to be understood as being confined to the determination of the frontier, and that all other questions were beyond its attributes.

I concur also in your observation to him, that it was doubtless intended that a Montenegrin representative should attend the Commission.

I should wish your Excellency to inform him that your views on both points are in accordance with those of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 538.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 22.)

(No. 35. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, April* 7, 1879.

NATIVES of the village of Hodoortchoor, residing at Trebizond, have lately received information that two Armenians of their village who were conveying the verghi (property tax) consisting of 40,000 piastres, to Isehen, the seat of the Kaïmakam of their district, were waylaid and robbed of this sum of money at six hours' distance from Hodoortchoor. Also that two other Armenians, named Moochdjioglou, on their way from that same village to Erzeroum, were fired at, luckily without being wounded, and plundered of their effects and money, representing together 120*l.*

It is reported besides that the inhabitants of Hodoortchoor are threatened again by the relatives and friends of the Mussulmans apprehended a few months ago for the outrage perpetrated by them at that village in September last.

I have had occasion to speak, in connection with this outrage, of the praiseworthy conduct of Hadji Ali Nihad Effendi, Kaïmakam at that time of Rizeh, and of his having been, in consequence thereof, the victim of a strong persecution which ended by his being left without employment since several months.

It now seems that the Armenians of Hodoortchoor consider that the appointment of this functionary, who, being a native of Artwin, is well known to them, to the post of Kaïmakam at Ispir would secure for them that tranquillity of which they are so much in need.

I understand that the Roman Catholic Armenian Bishop of Trebizond (the Hodoortchoorti belong to this creed) is going to recommend Ali Nihad Effendi through his superiors at Constantinople for the post, and I believe myself that his nomination at Ispir would have happy results for the Christian population of that district.

But should the Porte consent to the proposed appointment Hadji Ali Nihad Effendi

[a] Similar despatches were addressed to Sir A. Paget, Lord Odo Russell, Sir H. Elliot, Mr. Malet, and the Earl of Dufferin.

should be allowed to employ as zaptiehs some of his followers, when he could be held personally responsible for the safety of the Christians, and the security of their property in the extent of his jurisdiction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 539.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 22.)

(No. 36. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, April* 8, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Süri Pasha, the newly-app inted Governor-General of Trebizond, has yesterday taken possession of his post.

His arrival was anxiously waited by all classes of the population in the hope that he will reorganize the defective administration of this district.

He informed me that the present Cadi (President of the Court of Appeal), against whose conduct there was a general outcry (despatch No. 31 of the 7th ultimo), is superseded by a man of great integrity, and this first step in the right direction will, it is to be hoped, be followed by other measures equally indispensable.

The Commission of Reforms in Armenia, of which our ex-Governor-General, Yussuf Pasha, is the President, has not yet made its appearance, and as the date of its arrival is not yet known, Yussuf Pasha intends in all cases to proceed to Erzeroum within a fortnight in order to study the country in the meanwhile.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 540.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 22.)

(No. 37. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, April* 10, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that two battalions of the 4th Army Corps arived last week from Erzinghian, to replace two battalions of the 1st Army Corps, which are now stationed at Rizeh and Hoppa, and are wanted, I am informed, on the Greek frontier.

The Ottoman transport "Medjidié" has been sent from Constantinople to convey these troops to their different destinations, and has departed yesterday for Rizeh with troops on board.

One hundred and fifty discharged Moustahfiz arrived last evening from Erzinghian; a few more are shortly expected.

There are stationed here since several months, for what purpose it would be difficult to say, two battalions of Redifs belonging to the 4th Army Corps. They might also be sent back to their homes with economy to the Government, great relief to themselves, and profit to agriculture, and as they belong to Samsoon and neighbouring places, easily recalled when their services may be required again.

As it is, their ranks are daily thinned by desertion, which will, no doubt, increase as fine weather sets in. If they must be kept under the standard, they could be more usefully employed elsewhere than here.

Ferik Moustafa Pasha, the Commandant of the troops at Trebizond, has been dispatched to Batoum to tranquillize the border populations, which seem to be very excited, and may, it is feared, oppose the Commissioners when they begin the work of delimitation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 541.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 22.)

(No. 166.)
Baveno, April 19, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAD the opportunity of a few minutes' conversation yesterday at Monza with M. Depretis, in the course of which I made some inquiries respecting his Excellency's communications with the Albanian deputation which has lately been in Rome.

His Excellency informed me that he had received them, but that he had learnt from them very little more than he knew before, namely, that the Albanians were prepared to resist with arms any attempt to annex any part of their country to Greece.

I asked his Excellency if he had held out to the Albanian deputation any prospect or promise that the Italian Government would support their cause.

M. Depretis denied positively having done this; he had told them, he said, very little, and he had referred to the engagements of Italy under the Treaty of Berlin.

M. Depretis stated that he was now expecting an Epirote deputation to plead in a directly opposite sense, and his Excellency went on to say that he believed the French Government were engaged in drawing up some fresh proposal for the settlement of the Greco-Turkish Frontier question, and that it would be better to wait for this, repeating, however, the opinion which he has already on previous occasions expressed, that the concessions of territory to Greece laid down by the Congress of Berlin could not be carried out without a risk of insurrection in Epirus, and that in lieu of territory in Epirus larger concessions should be made in Thessaly.

As I was leaving Monza M. Depretis informed me that he had just received a telegram from Constantinople, stating that the Sultan had refused his sanction or signature to the Convention with Austria respecting Novi-Bazar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 542.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 22.)

(No. 167. Confidential.)
Baveno, April 19, 1879.

My Lord,

IN view of M. Depretis' denial of having encouraged the Albanian Deputation to hope that the Italian Government would support the cause of their countrymen, reported in my immediately preceding despatch, I think it only due to Mr. MacDonell, with reference to the telegram I repeated from him in my despatch No. 161 of the 16th instant, to state that in a private letter from Mr. MacDonell he informs me that his information came from Turkhan Bey, the Turkish Minister, and that it had in great measure been confirmed by Count Tornielli.

Your Lordship is aware that there are frequently two currents in the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and this may possibly account in some degree for the discrepancies on the present occasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 543.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 22.)

(No. 168. Confidential.)
Baveno, April 19, 1879.

My Lord,

MR. MACDONELL informs me in a letter which I received from him last night that Turkhan Bey, the Turkish Minister, had read to him confidentially the instructions of his Government with reference to the visit of the Albanian Deputies.

The Porte points out to him that it has the interests of Albania fully at heart, and that it is in a position to discuss and defend those interests better than a roving deputation, which, by its self-appointed mission, would appear to set at nought the authority of the Sultan. Hence it urges Turkhan Bey to persuade the said Deputies to proceed no further, but to return to their homes.

Mr. MacDonell adds, however, that the arguments of the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs have been entirely disregarded by the Deputation, who said that however faithful servants they might be of the Sultan, their existence was at stake, and that they intended to go through with their mission. Satisfied with their reception at Rome, they are equally confident of persuading the French Government of their legitimate rights and pretensions, especially against the provision of the Treaty of Berlin, in so far as their territory is concerned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 544.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 22.)

(No. 169.)
Baveno, April 20, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 9, dated yesterday, 6·45 P.M., instructing me to make a communication to M. Depretis respecting the affairs of the East, and to inclose herewith a copy of a note, marked Confidential, which I have addressed to his Excellency in consequence.

I have thought it better at the same time to advise his Excellency, by a cyphered telegram, of which I also enclose a copy, that a communication on this subject would reach him by the post which leaves this to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 544.

Sir A. Paget to M. Depretis.

(Confidential.)
Baveno, April 20, 1879.

M. le Ministre,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that I have been instructed by the Marquis of Salisbury to inform you that Her Majesty's Government have stated to the Government of Russia that they can consent to no modification of the Treaty of Berlin. Her Majesty's Government accept, however, the Turkish proposal, that the Commission be prolonged for one year, and that the exercise of the power of the Vali shall depend on the sanction of the majority during that period. This being proposed by the Turkish Government may, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, be accepted without derogation of the Treaty. Her Majesty's Government are also willing to counsel the Turkish Government not to be too hasty in occupying points on the frontier of Eastern Roumelia, but to wait a few months till the delimitation is completed.

I am further directed to express the hope of Her Majesty's Government that, in all matters which concern the Balkan Peninsula, England and Italy may act heartily together, and especially in the pending negotiations about Greece.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure 2 in No. 544.

Sir A. Paget to M. Depretis.

(Télégraphique.)
Baveno, April 20, 1879.

PAR la poste d'aujourd'hui j'adresse à votre Excellence une communication que j'ai reçu ordre de vous faire de la part de mon Gouvernement au sujet des affaires d'Orient.

No. 545.

Major Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 22.)

April 21, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

TO-DAY I attended first meeting of the Commission. Proceedings characterized by utter absence of formal procedure. No President nor Secretary. Turks have three other officers of higher rank on the Commission than one I had known as Commissioner at Batoum. Proceedings opened without any reference to the arrival or participation of the British Commissioner, and attempt made to force on a discussion of the frontier from Karaourgan. To my astonishment I found that the frontier had been traced on the map bearing signature even to the south of Karaourgan. Unless this is rectified at the next meeting, and the frontier so delineated in the absence of Great Britain expunged, I conceive that I should fail in my duty by sitting on the Commission.

I first endeavoured to infuse formality into the proceedings by asking the powers of Russia and Turkey. They were restricted powers, so I reserved the right of Her Majesty's Government to similar powers on the question of the frontier being again brought forward. I declined discussion until time given for study of map submitted, which was Russian.

Frontier hitherto has been delineated entirely in favour of Russia, and not in accordance with Treaty of Berlin.

Before the next meeting shall urge, through Her Majesty's Minister, Porte giving to their procedure more formality. No Protocol kept, nor any record of Commissioners' opinions.

Captain Gill considers that he has been purposely kept in the dark. Matters look as if there has been collusion between the interested Powers.

No. 546.

Consul-General Pulgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 22.)

Tirnova, April 21, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

REVISION of Organic Law was finished to-day. Assembly will be closed by end of the week. Assembly for the election of a Prince will be opened immediately after.

Election of Battenburg considered certain.

No. 547.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 22.)

(No. 152.)

Constantinople, April 21, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

WE finished the Vacouf to-day, excepting some small Turkish alterations. To-morrow we meet to complete verbal alterations. The whole Statute is adopted and passed.

Tzeretelew raised a question about militia officers' pay during transition period. Bearing in mind your telegrams to Lord Dufferin, I modified Austrian Commissioner's opposition, and shall to-morrow discuss question with Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 548.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 22.)

(No. 357.)

Constantinople, April 21, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

I SAW Sultan to-day, and, with regard to Austrian Convention, I said that Her Majesty's Government had recommended His Majesty to allow its conclusion, as they were convinced that it was for His Majesty's benefit, and that, had they had a shadow

of a doubt on the subject, they would not have allowed me to say a word in its favour. His Majesty replied that he was very glad to hear this statement, as he had permitted the signature in consequence of England's insisting upon it.

No. 549.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 22.)

(No. 358.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, April 22, 1879.

FOLLOWING from Consul-General at Salonica, dated yesterday:—

"Governor-General of Salonica received to-day telegram from interior, stating that yesterday a band of 400 Bulgarian insurgents crossed over from Bulgaria, and occupy village of Moitchan, four hours from town of Strumnitza, menacing to cut railway at Demir'kapou.

"Two companies of infantry and one squadron of cavalry were dispatched this afternoon by express train to [? name of place]."

No. 550.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 22.)

(No. 359. Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, April 22, 1879.

THE Sultan yesterday asked me how the negotiations for a loan were going on, urging that time for England to show her friendship was now or never. I replied that Her Majesty's Government were willing to name Commissioners if the details of the loan could be settled, but that the possible loan must depend on the consent of the bondholders, which it was out of the power of the Government to compel. The bondholders no doubt hesitated in consequence of events in Egypt, but I thought step which had been made towards a settlement of outstanding difficulties, like Austrian Convention, if it were accompanied by the maintenance of present Government in office, might reassure public mind. His Majesty, on this occasion, gave me no assurance regarding stability of Government.

No. 551.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 22.)

(No. 360. Secret.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, April 22, 1879.

THE Sultan yesterday asked me if I thought he could raise a loan on Cyprus, suggesting 4,000,000*l.* or 5,000,000*l.* I replied that a loan was not possible, as we might surrender the island under the Convention, which invalidated the security. His Majesty thereupon suggested that an engagement might be entered into ceding the occupation of the island definitively for a term of years, which he considered would overcome the difficulty I had mentioned, and he requested me to confer on the subject with the Grand Vizier.

No. 552.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 22.)

(No. 361.)

(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, April 22, 1879.

AUSTRIAN Convention question being finished, Minister for Foreign Affairs has promised me to bring forward Slave Trade Convention in Council to-day.

No. 553.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 22.*)

(No. 362.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 22, 1879.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 360, Secret, Sir A. Sandison assures me that the Sultan suggested a loan of 2,000,000*l.* or 2,500,000*l.*, not 4,000,000*l.* or 5,000,000*l.*

No. 554.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 22, 6 P.M.*)

(No. 64.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 22, 1879, 3·30 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Government have thrown out suggestion that they should furnish an escort to the Bulgarian Boundary Commission till its work was done, but Count Andrassy considers that question of occupation has no connection with that work, and that evacuation must not be made in any way dependent upon it.

Your telegram of yesterday, proposing that Commission should begin at the west, has just been communicated to him, with request for an early answer to it and to the question asked in your telegram No. 18.

No. 555.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 22, 4 P.M.*)

(No. 65.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 22, 1879, 1 P.M.*

BEFORE receiving your telegram No. 21, I had heard of the suspicion that the anxiety of Russia to have Aleko named Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia might be explained by an intention of having his nephew elected Prince of Bulgaria, and I inquired yesterday whether it was supposed here to be well founded.

Baron Orczy said that he did not believe it, thinking it more probable that Aleko had been patronized simply because he was not likely to be an efficient or strong Governor.

He said he had no notion who was likely to be elected in Bulgaria, but he was convinced that choice depended entirely upon Prince Dondoukoff.

No. 556.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 22.*)

(No. 66.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 22, 1879.*

COUNT ZICHY has reported signature of Convention.

No. 557.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 22.*)

(No. 39.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, April 22, 1879.*

FOLLOWING figures have been received from Mr. MacDonell, dated to-day:—

"(Most Confidential.)

"Delegates from Epirus expressed great disappointment at the manner in which their representations have been received by the Italian Government. Tornielli argued that Albanian nationality should be taken into consideration, and that a policy of annexation to Greece could only serve Austrian views.

"In reply to French Ambassador (*sic*) that French Minister for Foreign Affairs is preparing a new line of demarcation, Tornielli said that Italy could not be expected to

accept as an accomplished fact a plan with regard to which she had not been previously consulted.

"Great vigilance appears to be exercised along the Adriatic coast, and the Italian navy appears unusually active."

No. 558.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 22, 1879, 3·30 P.M.*

YOURS 150.

Reouf's advice is good as a purely temporary expedient. Sultan ought to have within reach as many troops as he can afford; but the contact between them and the Eastern Roumelians should be avoided except in case of necessity. Of course he will occupy Bourgas immediately after the evacuation. As fast as he can afford it, he should be ready to occupy one or two important points on the Balkan frontier, but that should not be till the delimitation is complete.

No. 559.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 31.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 22, 1879, 3·45 P.M.*

YOURS 354.

(Secret).

The French attach great importance to Rustem not going back to Lebanon. Whatever we may do later it is not convenient to raise any question in this matter now. I would not discourage Sultan from postponing his decision.

No. 560.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 22, 1879, 4·15 P.M.*

WE hope soon to come to a settlement with Russia, of which this will be the substance. That controverted questions of delimitation, including those points where watershed is to be overstepped northward, in order to give defensible position to Turkey, shall be determined by majority.

This will be conditional on Turkey agreeing that Commission be prolonged for a year, that Governor shall not summon Ottoman troops into interior during that time, except with the assent of majority, that Turkey will not occupy points on frontier between Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia till they have been delimitated, assuming delimitation to be finished before next winter.

No. 561.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 41.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 22, 1879, 8·40 P.M.*

WE would assent to following instruction as satisfying our conditions:—"It shall be an instruction to the members of the Delimitation Commission, whenever, in Articles II and XIV of the Treaty the boundary line is indicated by the word 'crête,' or 'chaine principale,' to take the watershed as their guide in demarcating the frontiers, except where deviations to the northward may be necessary to secure a defensible frontier to Turkey, according to the terms of the Treaty of Berlin. The majority shall decide what deviations are necessary and all other differences of opinion with respect to the line of delimitation."

It differs from your proposal chiefly in providing for those parts of the frontier at the eastern and western ends which do not depend on the watershed.

No. 562.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 223.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 22, 1879.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 155 of the 13th instant referring to my telegram No. 7 of the 12th of this month on the subject of the proposed mixed occupation in Eastern Roumelia, and I approve of your Excellency's communications with Mr. MacDonell on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 563.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 219.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, April 22, 1879.*

I HAVE telegraphed to your Excellency this day requesting you to propose to the Russian Government the following instruction to the Bulgarian Frontier Commissioners, as being one that would satisfy the conditions required by Her Majesty's Government :—

"It shall be an instruction to the members of the Commission that wherever in Articles II and XIV of the Treaty of Berlin the boundary line is indicated by the words 'crête' or 'chaîne principale,' they shall take the watershed as their guide in demarcating the frontier, except where deviations to the northward may be necessary to secure a defensible frontier to Turkey, according to the terms of the Treaty. The majority of the Commission shall decide what deviations are necessary, and all other differences of opinion with respect to the line of delimitation."

This instruction differs from the form proposed by you in your telegram No. 46 of the 20th instant, chiefly in the fact that it makes provision for those portions of the frontier at the eastern and western extremities of the line which are not dependent on the watershed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 564.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 568. Secret.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 22, 1879.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 351 of yesterday's date, I informed you to-day by telegraph that, as the French Government attach great importance to Rustem Pasha's not returning to his post as Governor of the Lebanon, and as Her Majesty's Government do not consider that it would be convenient to raise any question on this matter under existing circumstances—whatever course they may deem it desirable to take hereafter—it will be best that you should not discourage the Sultan from postponing for the present his decision on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 565.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 570.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 22, 1879.*

YOU will have learnt from a telegram which I have addressed to you to-day that Her Majesty's Government hope soon to arrive at a settlement of the question of the Balkans frontier with the Russian Government, of which the substance will be as follows: All controverted questions of delimitation, including discussions as to the points where the watershed is to be overstepped in order to give a defensible position to Turkey, are to be determined by the majority of votes. This settlement will be made conditional on Turkey's consenting to the prolongation of the Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia for a year, and to her agreeing that the Governor of that province shall not summon Ottoman troops into the interior except with the assent of the majority of the Commissioners. The Porte will also be required to give an assurance that its troops will not occupy any points on the frontier between Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia until its delimitation is completed, assuming that such delimitation is finished before next winter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 566.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 204.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 22, 1879.*

WITH reference to the last paragraph of your telegram No. 150 of the 20th instant, I have to-day informed you in a telegram that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, Réouf Pasha's recommendation, as reported to you by the Sultan, that the task of maintaining order in the Province of Eastern Roumelia should be intrusted to the local militia, under the orders of the Governor-General and the European Commission, may be entertained as a purely temporary expedient. It is, however, in their opinion, most important that the Sultan should have at hand as many troops as circumstances will permit, although, except in case of absolute necessity, they should not be brought into contact with the Roumeliotes. Ottoman troops should be prepared to occupy Bourgas immediately on its evacuation by the Russians, and should be ready, as fast as the resources of the Porte will admit of their doing so, to occupy one or two important points on the Balkan frontier. This, however, cannot, of course, be effected until the delimitation of the frontier is completed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 567.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 7. Political.)

My Lord, *Diarbekir, March 23, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of my despatch No. 22 of the 22nd instant to the address of Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary at Constantinople, being the continuation of the account of my recent tour in the province.

Copies of my recent despatches to the Embassy have been sent direct to Constantinople, in consequence of telegraphic instructions received by me to that effect, but as I am anxious that this despatch should reach England, if possible, prior to the departure of Sir Henry Layard, I have on this occasion sent the copy direct to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER, *Major,*
In charge of Kurdistan Consulate.

Inclosure 1 in No. 567.

Major Trotter to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Diarbekir, March 22, 1879.*

IN my despatch of the 16th instant, I brought up the account of my recent tour to the date of my departure from Nisibin on Friday the 21st ultimo. I have now the honour to submit an account of the remainder of my journey.

From Nisibin (K)* I proceeded due north to Midyad (K), a longish day's journey of ten hours. After three miles across the plain the road enters the Jebel Tur mountains, and for twelve miles passes by an easy ascent up the richly wooded valley of the Nisibin

* (K) indicates that the place is to found in Kiepert's large map.

stream to a point where the river issues from the rocky ground in copious springs, above which the stream is dry. The bottom of the valley, which is inclosed by precipitous limestone hills, varies in width from 100 to 200 yards, and for a distance of several miles is simply one dense mass of fruit, willow, and poplar trees. The fruit produced in this valley is very pernicious, and I was told by my guides that any one who was rash enough to eat it was invariably subsequently attacked with fever. After leaving the springs the valley narrowed, and the road became very bad. At one point the caravan had to pass through a hole in the rocks, where there was not room for my riding-horse to pass without scratching his back; saddles, baggage, &c., had all to be removed. The road shortly afterwards made a rapid ascent, after surmounting which we found ourselves on the edge of a high undulating table land, some 3,000 feet above sea level, and extending northwards to the Tigris, a distance of some forty miles, its surface a dry stony soil covered with dwarf oak, and having villages scattered over it at distant intervals.

This district of Midyad is a very interesting but little known country. It is marked on Kiepert's map as "Tûr Abdin," which is the Syrian for "Mountains of the Faithful," but it is more generally known to its own inhabitants as "Jebel Tûr."

On entering it from the south the Arab language of the desert is entirely left behind, and in lieu thereof two languages are found, viz., the ordinary Kurdish and the Turâni, a dialect of modern Syrian, spoken, I believe, nowhere else but in these mountains, which form the present stronghold of the Jacobite faith. The male inhabitants, whether Kurds or Christians, but more especially the latter, are of very prepossessing appearance. They are tall, handsome, and powerfully built. All are armed, and are habituated to the use of fire-arms, and there is a manlier and more independent look about the Christians than I have observed in any other part of the country. The past two years have, however, as I will shortly show, been a period of great suffering to the whole population, a result of the absolute anarchy that has prevailed in the country, not only since the beginning of, but still more since the termination of, the Turco-Russian War.

The Midyad Kazaa is governed by a Kaïmakam, who is subordinate to the Mutessarif of Mardin. Both these officials have been appointed to their present posts since my arrival in the vilayet, and are not personally in any way responsible for the evils I am about to describe.

The district contains 230 villages, containing in all 5,790 houses of Moslems (Kurds), 2,300 of Christians, and 90 of Yezidis.

The town of Midyad itself contains 400 houses, population all Christian,* with the exception of a few Turkish officials. It is a well-to-do place, possessing 300 looms, where country cloths are manufactured for export to Northern Kurdistan.

Unfortunately, this country, like many other parts of Kurdistan, suffers under the tyrannical misrule of a number of turbulent Aghas, who lose no opportunity of aggrandizing themselves at the expense of their poorer neighbours. In ordinary times, when the Turkish Government was comparatively strong, this state of things was found hard to bear by the unfortunate peasantry, but as long as there were regular troops in Mardin and Midyad these Aghas were kept in some sort of subjection, and although they undoubtedly oppressed their own Rayahs, they seldom interfered with those of their neighbours. During the war, however, the regular troops were sent to the front, and the local authorities had no means of enforcing order. The Kurds of the Midyad district are divided into two clans or tribes, called respectively the Dekhshuriye and the Heverkiye, who from time immemorial have been at bitter feud one with the other. It is the existence of these antagonistic clans that has caused much of the mischief. The local Governor, being left destitute of means of maintaining order, had invariably to lean for support on one or other of these two tribes. If taxes had to be levied from a Dekhshuri village, or a disturbance quelled, some of the Chiefs of the opposite faction would be summoned to aid authority; the result would be an expedition, in which the rebellious village would be plundered, its houses burned, and some of its defenders probably killed. The assailants, taking advantage of being to a certain extent under Government protection, would seize the opportunity of wreaking their vengeance on other villages of their foes, who had given no cause of complaint to Government. It happened again in some villages that members of the two opposing clans lived side by side, and it sometimes occurred that the houses and property of those favourable to the attacking party were spared, only to be destroyed on some subsequent occasion, when the opposite faction would be in the ascendant.

I was furnished while in Midyad with a list of some thirty villages that had been

* Nineteen families of Protestants; al the rest Jacobites.

wholly or partially plundered and burned during the past two years, the majority of cases having occurred within the last year. Probably within the same period of time at least fifty lives have been lost, never in any great number at any one particular village, but in twos and threes and fours. At the village of Derdil, however, nine lives were lost. The principal offenders on the side of the Dekhshuriye—the most powerful clan—were Osman Timur, the Chief of Arnas, with his brothers Sarokhan and Lavendo, and their respective sons. Wherever I went in the district I heard the name of Osman Timur execrated. Another Chief of the same clan, Hassan Shamdin, of Kefirjios, came in for a large share of abuse.

The principal Chiefs of the Heverkiye are Ali Râmno and Hâdju Bey, the latter a noted robber and brigand.

I have appended to this despatch a translation of a petition presented to me on my return from the Midyad districts of Mardin, bearing the signatures and seals of the Mayors of fifty villages of the Midyad district, calling attention to the misdeeds of Osman Timur and his relations, of Hâdjur, of Government officials and others. The original document is in Arabic, and is lengthy and involved, but the translation may, perhaps, repay perusal, as being the account given by one of the persons principally concerned. Your Excellency is probably sufficiently conversant with documents of this description to know that it is probable not one of the signatories has ever heard read the whole of the document he has signed. The petition is generally the work of some energetic member of the community, and those who sign merely know that it is in general terms a complaint about their miserable condition, and, in this instance, abuse of the Kaïmakam and Osman Timur in particular.

Another document, of which I now give the translation, is, to judge from the wording of it, more probably the composition of the petitioners themselves. It is signed and sealed by the Mayors of the seven villages concerned, and runs as follows. (N.B.—Original in Arabic):—

"Last year, in the days of the previous Kaïmakam, Amin Effendi, were plundered the villages of Halekh and Khaltan, and Bâzgûr, and Akhwârik, and Zachovân, and Ainakhan, and taken from them many goods and many cattle, and that, at the instigation of Lavendo, brother of Osman Timur, and Mohammed, son of Sarokhan, and Hossein, son of Osman, and Mohammed Amin and Suleiman; and they have made responsible for this damage the poor people who are obedient to the Government. And with these were the sons of Hassan Shamdin, who came to the said Kaïmakam, and persuaded him, and said these villages were rebellious, while their purpose was to plunder the poor and take spoil to themselves. And this is always our condition under these powerful Aghas; and we are poor and injured, and entreat for help in our rights, according to the truth of our condition.

"This is what was necessary to inform you of, and may God prolong your continuance Effendi.

"Dated $\frac{9}{21}$ February, 1879."

(Signed and sealed by the Mayors of the seven above-mentioned villages.)

In these raids which I have been describing, Mahommedans and Christians seem to have fared alike; in fact, the latter appear to be just as strong partizans of one or other of the rival clans as the Kurds; and the Christian villages have suffered equally with the Moslem.

I have, in a former despatch (No. 2, Political, of January 12) to Secretary of State, gone at some length into the details of the ill-treatment of Protestants in the Midyad districts, and I pointed out that this same Osman Timur, whose black deeds I have recounted in this despatch, was particularly keen in his persecution of Protestants, not on purely religious grounds, but for the more practical reason that the converts, as soon as they obtain the protection of the American missionaries, learn to know their civil rights, and refuse to submit to unlawful exactions. As British Consul, I am supposed, by the Protestant community, to be specially charged with looking after their interests, and, accordingly, during my few days' stay at Midyad, I was visited by strong deputations from all the villages in the district that contain Protestants.* Some of them came from a distance of two days' journey off, and I must say that the very cordial welcome I received from them was very touching. Every man in every deputation, and in one there were as many as twenty individuals, insisted on giving me a most hearty shake of the hand, and seemed to consider that, having had that honour, he was amply repaid for the trouble of his long journey. They nearly all had the same tale to tell of oppression

* Five in number.

by the local Aghas; their villages had suffered but partially from the clannish animosities I have before alluded to, but all seemed to be of opinion that if a few of the leading Aghas, notably Osman Timur and his family, were permanently expelled the country, the example would be sufficient to restrain the smaller fry from committing illegal oppression.

It is not only the Aghas, however, who come in for blame and for abuse.

The Kaïmakams, of whom there have been five at Midyad during the past two years, generally each make one tour of the district while in office, during which they extort money right and left under various pretences. The members of the Medjliss are so notoriously corrupt that it is almost always easy for a wealthy man accused of crime to secure an acquittal; but if, for some special reason, he does get condemned, money will generally ultimately secure his release. This applies, not only to Midyad, but to the country generally. This almost universal corruption is one of the worst signs of the times, and is one of the most formidable obstacles that have to be encountered by Her Majesty's Government in bringing about reforms.

Amongst the minor miseries of the Midyadites, they complained of the billetting of troops on the inhabitants. In Midyad there are no barracks, and the half-battalion of regulars, whose presence in the district is absolutely necessary, are billetted in houses, for which, of course, no rent is paid. (I must say, to the credit of the Bimbashi commanding the troops, that I heard no complaints against the soldiery.) I was told that no one cared to build a good house, as it would at once be occupied by some Government official. A certain member of the local Medjliss had occupied rooms in one of the best houses in the place for five years without having paid one farthing's rent. Complaint was also made to me that, quite recently, fifty horses had been impressed to take supplies for the troops to Djezireh, but the owners got neither payment nor promise to pay. I don't wish to be down too much on the Government, and if they haven't got money they can't be expected to pay; but money is too often extracted by the officials which never finds its way to the Treasury; for instance, the Protestant inhabitants of Kerboran (ten hours from Midyad) told me that when Bahri Bey was collecting Bashi-Bazouks in these parts during the war, forced contributions, aggregating 8,000 piastres, were levied on the village; these were paid to the Christian Mayor, a Jacobite, Hannor Soni by name, and retained by him for his own use, never reaching the Government for whom they had been intended. (N.B.—A different version of this affair will be found in Inclosure A, Articles 2 and 3.)

The internecine feuds which I have described have prevented all ordinary communication between Midyad and Misibin (the road by which I travelled) during the past year. I was informed by Mr. Cuming, an Englishman who traversed this district about a year ago, that on leaving a village where he had been staying he was escorted by a large number of horsemen, who left him as soon as they got within sight of the next village, lest the inhabitants should sally out and attack them.

Anxious to escape for a time from the tales of woe which were being so constantly dinned into my ears, and which I was powerless to remedy, I left Midyad, in company with the Rev. Mr. Andrews, of the American Mission, for a short trip, with the object of shooting some wild goats said to exist near Kefrbe (K), a village fifteen miles east of Midyad. I found none, and then tried my luck at the village of Dalin, eight hours to the south-west of Kefrbe. I was equally unsuccessful there, but I had meanwhile had an opportunity of seeing something more of the country and of verifying some of the facts I had heard. On the road to Kefrbe I passed the village of Meziza, the stronghold of the famous robber Hádju. I found his house destroyed, as well as half the village, i.e., the half occupied by the Heverkiye, the partizans of Hádju. A few months ago the authorities, with the aid of one gun, half a battalion of troops, and a mass of Dekhshuriye irregulars, attacked the robber Chief, who, with some thirty of his men, made a most brilliant defence—killed seven of the soldiers as they advanced to the assault, and then, getting out by a back door, cut their way through the investing lines and escaped into the mountains, where they have not yet been captured. This is the story I heard on the spot, and is, I believe, the true account. Another version will be found in the inclosure, Article 12.

Again, on my second day's march, between Kefrbe and Dalin, I suddenly came across a large village abandoned and in ruins, evidently quite recently deserted. This was Kefnas, a Yezidi village, of whose destruction I had not even heard while in Midyad. It had belonged to partizans of Hádju, and had been attacked, burned, and plundered by Government troops and their associates. A portion of the inhabitants had taken refuge with their Chief in the mountains, and the remainder are now living in Meziza and other villages. A few freshly-turned graves marked where some of those who had fallen were buried. One or two other small villages near the road were pointed out to me as "kharabi," or deserted.

I had thus ample ocular demonstration that the main facts I had heard and now have reported on were by no means exaggerated.

At Dalin village (five hours south of Midyad), where I passed one night, I found the inhabitants (friends of Hádju) miserably poor. The village contained thirty houses—all Kurds. Eight men had gone to the wars, and not one had returned. The villagers complained bitterly of the heavy virgos tax, viz., 6,000 piastres, against tithes to the amount of 2,000 piastres only. This unfair assessment they attributed to our old acquaintance, Osman Timur. I was told that they had once paid a douceur of 800 piastres to the Kaïmakam when he visited the village, on his promising to get the virgu reduced, but they had naturally heard nothing more about the matter. These people, who were very civil and friendly, lived principally upon bread made from acorns. I ate some, and found it very tasteless and, I should think, unnutritious. It is often used in these districts as a substitute for wheaten bread, whenever the latter is dear.

The whole of the Midyad district consists of a series of gentle undulations, forming the surface of a table-land which has an average elevation of from 2,500 to 3,000 feet above sea level. The hills are composed of a particularly hard limestone rock, and the paths by which we travelled are, as a whole, amongst the stoniest and most disagreeable I have ever travelled by. It was impossible to take one's horse out of a walk. From the time I left the springs above Nisibin until my return to Mardin I never saw running water. The water supply depends entirely on the rain, which is collected in natural and artificial reservoirs. The limestone rocks abound in caves and large natural reservoirs. The country is admirably adapted for robbers, who can always find places of concealment, and can live on bread made from the acorns of the stunted oak, with which the whole country is more or less covered, the only exceptions being in the neighbourhood of the villages, where a comparative absence of rock and stones enables the inhabitants to grow grain. The whole district was suffering from drought when I was there, but I learn that rain has fallen, though scantily, since my departure. An ample supply of rain now will secure the harvest; otherwise there are pospects of an entire failure of this year's crops.

On returning from Midyad to Mardin (the 26th February) we passed a night at Apschi, a Kurdish village of seventy houses. The Kehiya, or Mayor, was a great friend of my travelling companion, Dr. Thom, and I learned that the whole of the villagers had, a short time before, formally petitioned to be taken under the protection of the American missionaries, without, however, offering to give up their own religion. Their offer was declined, with thanks.

One and a half years ago this village had been plundered in open daylight of 500 sheep—nearly half of its entire stock. They had been distributed amongst four hostile villages, of which Dalin, where I had slept the previous night, was one. Although they knew where these sheep were, and although they had constantly applied to the authorities for redress, they had only succeeded in recovering eleven head. I was intrusted with a Petition to the Pasha on the subject, which I promised to give him.

Apschi is about 13 miles from Midyad and 21 from Mardin, to which place I returned on the 27th February, the road running over a succession of undulations, formed by limestone rocks, covered, though more sparsely than elsewhere, with stunted oak. We passed several small Kurdish villages *en route*. When within 8 miles of Mardin, at an elevation of 3,500 feet, we found ourselves again on the crest of the table-land, looking down on the Mesopotamian plain, but with the magnificent isolated castle-crowned Mardin mountains as a foreground. A descent of 1,100 feet and an ascent of the same amount brought me back to my old quarters in Mardin.

I there found the new Váli, Izzet Pasha, on his way from Djezireh to Diarbekir, as well as Kiazim Pasha, one of his late coadjutors. I lost no time in calling on him, and I laid before him the lamentable state of the country, giving him copies of various Petitions I had received *en route*. Fresh from the revolting details of scenes at Sert, Dehe and Djezireh, where matters have, I imagine, been carried on in somewhat the same fashion as I have described for the Midyad district, only on a larger scale; he expressed himself as fully aware that the only remedy for existing evils is the banishment of the most disreputable of the leading Aghas from the country, and he said he had reported to Constantinople to that effect. News had been received of the appointment of Yusuf Pasha and Costaki Bey as Special Commissioners for reforms in Aleppo and Diarbekir vilayets, and it would probably rest with them to carry out the work. I have made the statement in a recent despatch that these Commissions generally end in smoke, but this one appears to have burst prematurely without coming to a head, for, as I write, I learn (20th March) that neither of the two Commissioners are coming, and as Izzet Pasha has

been postponing reforms on the ground that the Commission was to do everything, I have yet to learn whether there is any prospect of reforms being ultimately carried out, or of any amelioration being made in the state of the suffering populations, not that the Vali Pasha himself can do much, however well inclined; but if he were supported by the presence of a few honest and capable Europeans, to leaven the map of corruption by which he is surrounded, affairs may gradually but slowly improve.

At Mardin I also exchanged visits with Said Pasha, who, as I have reported in a former despatch, has been recently appointed Governor of Sert. I was also visited by several Beys and Aghas, who had come to Mardin for the purpose of welcoming the new Governor, amongst others by Hussein Agha of Oomerian, a district to the north of Mardin, containing fifty villages, and not a single Christian inhabitant.

On Monday the 3rd instant I left Mardin to return to Diarbekir. I took a circuitous road, in order to see as much as possible of the country.

My first march was a short one of 12 miles to Tellermen, a Christian village of about 100 houses, lying in the plain to the south-west of Mardin, and almost within a stone's throw of the once considerable town (now a small village) of Khoja Hissar (K). I put up in the house of the Armenian priest, a most intelligent man, speaking several languages, educated at the Jesuit College at Beyrout. It was curious to find in the middle of the desert a well educated man, speaking excellent French, and full of quotations from Virgil. It was also unique, for this part of the world, to find a Christian village, whose inhabitants were all of one religion, viz., Armenian Catholics, but the priest, who was a native of the place, was a man of power, and was evidently much respected and looked up to by his parishioners, of whom he was the temporal as well as the spiritual head; not a man entered his presence without coming to kiss his hand. The Armenian inhabitants were a fine stalwart race of men, and the children in particular, whom I saw in school, were strikingly handsome—their ancestors being settled in the deserts for centuries past. None of the modern generation speak Armenian, but their household language is Turkish, hardly any of them, however, but were equally conversant with Arab and Kurdish. Well armed, they appear to have held their own tolerably well amongst their Arab, Kurdish, and Circassian neighbours. A party from the village, armed with lances, escorted me to my next camp at Deyrik, and, I understand, rather created a sensation amongst the Kurdish Aghas there, who had never hitherto seen Christians with such martial airs.

But although much better off than their Christian neighbours scattered in small parties amongst the Kurds, my Tellermen friends by no means lived on a bed of roses.

The priest has been resident in the village for the past eight years, and as I halted a day at Tellermen, I obtained a good deal of information about the country.

The bold and precipitous mountain range which lies to the north of the village, at a distance of about 6 miles, is called by the Arabs "Jebel Afz," by the Turks "Mazi Tagh," being the Arabic and Turkish equivalents for "Mountains of Gall (nuts)." In that portion which extends from Deyrik* to Mardin, having a breadth of about 12 miles from north to south, there are some thirty villages of Kurds, in some few of which exist two or three Christian families. For three years past these Kurds have given to Government neither taxes nor soldiers, and no Government official during that period of time has dared to enter their mountain strongholds. Their principal villages are Araban (200 houses), and Kharoch (100 houses). The former has twice been burned by Turkish troops, the last occasion having been eighteen years ago. These Kurds could probably muster from 1,500 to 2,000 fighting men (all dismounted).

During the past two years these Kurds have been constantly threatening the peace of the villages in the plain, and at one time the Christians of Tellermen were threatened with massacre, from which they believe they were only saved by the intervention of a certain Mila Daudh, one of the four principal Chiefs of the country, who personally had always been friendly towards the Christians. At the time of the Russian successes matters became quieter, but the moment the Russians left Erzeroum their troubles and anxieties recommenced, and lasted in full force until about a month prior to my visit, when I was assured (and I have been told the same thing of other districts) that the news of the arrival and location of a British Consul in Diarbekir had done much to quiet these lawless tribes.

One large valley in these mountains, two hours north-east of Tellermen, is called Ghurss. It contains twelve villages, and can muster 1,000 fighting men. They are hostile to the other Jebel Afz tribes, of whom I have already spoken, and about six weeks ago were plundered by them of sixty oxen.

* A village 40 miles south of Diarbekir.

Tellermen is not much happier in its other neighbours. The plain country lying to the south of the mountain range between Nisibin (K) and Orfa (K) is principally occupied by four great Kurdish tribes, the Milli, the Dakhori, the Khiki, and the Khalagi. These tribes pay taxes and give soldiers to the Government, but are at constant feud one with the other. During the past two years the priest, armed with his binoculars, and villagers told me that over and over again they had ascended the lofty mound or tell behind the village and gazed on fierce combats in the plain below. In one of these 2,000 men at least were engaged, and several were killed.

South of these Kurdish tribes again at a distance of a long day's journey from Tellermen is the Circassian settlement of Ras-ul-Ain, of which I have given an account in a recent despatch. South of the Circassians again are the Arabs, one tribe of which, the Harb, mustering 500 tents, occupy the country bordering the Zirghan, a small river which flows south from Tellermen. My Christian friends informed me that while the hill Kurds are their especial abhorrence they are well treated by the Arabs, against whom they have no complaints to make. These Harb Arabs are very friendly, and the Tellermenians intrust their flocks to them in the spring for grazing in the Abdul Aziz mountains. They pay the Arabs 2 piastres per head of sheep for their protection. I was assured that if I would visit these mountains (three days' journey south of Tellermen) in six weeks time I should there find these Christian shepherds wandering about in perfect safety amongst the Arabs.

But their more immediate neighbours, the Kurds of both mountain and plain, and the Circassian robbers, are quite sufficient to keep them most uncomfortable. If sheep or horses wander beyond a short distance from the village, they are pounced on by Kurds or Circassians, and there is no redress. They have four times been robbed by Circassians within the last two years, and have lost nearly all their horses. I took the priest out duck-shooting 3 or 4 miles from the village, and he assured me that he had not ventured so far from home for two years past, and sure enough, on seeing our party, a large force of armed and cut-throat looking Kurds came out from their village in a very threatening manner, but I had taken the precaution of bringing my zaptiehs with me, and we formed a large and well-armed party. When they found out who it was they apologized and retired.

There is a small village of thirty houses,* Jacobite Christians, 2½ miles from Tellermen, whose state was described to me as a most wretched one. The hill Kurds make it a sort of rendezvous when starting on excursions in the plains, and live on the inhabitants. I met there the hill Chieftain, Mila Daudh, and I took the opportunity of thanking him for his interference in favour of the Christians, which I have before alluded to.

My Christian friends in Tellermen boasted that no robber dared come inside their village, as the streets being narrow, and the inhabitants numerous and well armed, no robber would get out again alive; but although apparently pretty well able to hold on within their own walls, they cannot venture any distance away from them, unless in large parties and well armed.

On Wednesday the 5th instant I marched 24 miles over the plain in a north-west direction to Deyrik, a large village of 400 houses, 40 miles due south of Diarbekir. It is the head-quarters of a mudirlik containing twelve or thirteen villages. In a position highly favoured by nature, it is one of the most picturesque, as it ought to be one of the most prosperous settlements in this part of the country. It is on the southern slope of the mountain range, and about 1,000 feet above the Mesopotamian plain, at the junction of two large, well watered, open, and fertile valleys, covered with dense groves of olive trees (the only ones I have as yet seen in this vilayet), and an abundance of other fruit trees. The town itself is at the foot of gigantic limestone crags which rise to a height of more than 1,000 feet above it, in a series of perpendicular cliffs, towering one above the other in stupendous array.

But though beautiful to look at, its state is as deplorable as other parts of this misgoverned country. Some fifteen years ago the town contained 600 houses, but the anarchy in the surrounding district, the oppression of the local Aghas, and (according to the Aghas) the heavy taxes imposed by the Government, have combined to reduce it to its present dimensions.

One hundred houses, i.e., one-fourth of the total number, are occupied by Christians, fifty are Protestant, thirty Armenian, fifteen Catholic Armenian, and five Jacobites. It was at the earnest united request of the heads of these four communities that I consented to stay a day in Deyrik, to endeavour to do something to ameliorate their condition by exerting my influence with the Aghas on their behalf. I accordingly paid

* Called Ibrahani.

a visit to the Mudir, who, at my request, summoned the whole of the influential Aghas to meet me. There are four or five who live in the town who possess most of the property in the district, and who are the protectors of the men who almost nightly enter houses and shops in the Christian quarter.

The Aghas assembled, and I addressed them at considerable length, telling them that I had been commissioned by the British Government to travel through and report on the state of the country; that my Government, equally with that of the Sultan, wished the well-being of all classes in the State, but I regretted to have heard that some among their number had openly threatened the persons and lives of Christians, besides conniving at the almost nightly robberies that take place, and which are exclusively confined to the Christian quarter. I wished bygones to be bygones, but as to the future I begged them to understand that the Russians having now taken their departure from Roumelia, the Ottoman Government would now have time to look after the well-being of the provinces, and the strength, which it had hitherto lacked, to maintain order and punish all those who were guilty of offences against life or property. I expatiated at some length as to how Moslems and others flourished in India under the British rule, and pointed out how much it would be to their own advantage that they should live at peace with their Christian neighbours.

My address, as far as I could judge, was taken in very good part by the Aghas, who themselves attributed all the misdeeds that had occurred to the feebleness of the Government—the fact is true—but it is no defence for the Aghas; and I told them in reply that if the Government were weak it was their duty to support it by setting a good example to their followers.

They then pointed out that although their village had contributed 200 men to the army, and they all paid their taxes regularly,—unlike the majority of their neighbours,—yet that the whole police force for the protection of the district consisted of four men, a number manifestly ridiculously insufficient, considering that they march with the Aleppo Vilayet, and are in contact with Arabs, Kurds, and Circassians. (N.B.—I spoke to the Pasha on the subject on my return to Diarbekir, and he told me that he had absolutely no men to send, as the Diarbekir police force had been reduced during the past few months by desertion, &c., to about half its proper strength, and as long as the men continue to be paid in caimé there will be found none foolish enough to enlist in the places of those that are gone.)

The interview lasted for more than an hour (as my remarks had to be translated from French into Armenian and from Armenian into Kurdish), the Catholic priest acting as interpreter. I trust that what I said may produce a good effect in strengthening the hands of the local Governor, and in ameliorating the position of the Christians, which during the past two years has been almost intolerable. It is sufficient to state that I was shown the ruins of the Catholic church on a magnificent site over-looking the valley. It was abandoned only two years ago for a position of greater security inside the town. I also saw the Armenian church, and on noticing that the interior was almost dark, the windows being blocked up with masonry, I was told that this was done to prevent the admission of thieves. Lastly, four shops and nine houses, all belonging to Christians, have been burglariously entered during the five weeks preceding my visit, besides which the lives of several of the Christians have been openly threatened in the bazaar by one of the principal Aghas. The Mudir, who is a good and just man, and has thereby incurred the animosity of the Aghas, has himself been compelled to leave the public buildings which were in an exposed situation, and has taken up his quarters in a borrowed house in the Christian quarter.

Although there have been many threats of a repetition of the Damascus massacres, fortunately action in this respect has been confined to words, but there exists the most complete insecurity of property, and the Aghas and their followers commit innumerable acts of petty oppression and pilfering in the bazaar in open day-light without any one daring to oppose them.

In a previous despatch, No. 19 of the 10th March, I have prominently alluded to the fact that, during the absence of these Deyrik Aghas in prison in Diarbekir, the most profound tranquillity prevailed. The attacks on the Christian houses only recommenced after their return.

I am aware that in summoning these Aghas together, and in addressing them in the manner I have described, I may perhaps have somewhat outstepped the usually accepted line of duty of a British Consul, but knowing as I do that Her Majesty's Government has the welfare of these provinces at heart, and that a great deal may be accomplished by the judicious exercise of personal influence, I trust that your Excellency will approve of the action I have taken in this matter. The delay in the introduction of the long-

expected reforms is causing the Christian population here and elsewhere to lose heart, and is engendering feelings of (I trust false) confidence in the minds of those in power, that they may continue their misdeeds with impunity. Knowing, moreover, that even when the reforms are commenced it may take years before their influence is felt in some of the remote and out-of-the-way corners such as Deyrik, shown on no map and probably unknown by name even to your Excellency, I feel it incumbent on me to let pass no opportunity of effecting good that may present itself.

From Deyrik I marched into Diarbekir on the 7th instant, forty-two miles over the hills.

The crest of the table-land (3,900 feet above sea level) is reached at four miles from the village. The country thence slopes down gradually towards Diarbekir. The higher portions are covered with forests of fine oak trees, which become more scanty and smaller as they approach the Diarbekir plain, which is entered at the Yizid Valley of Dandi, fifteen miles south of the city. Several small villages are passed *en route*.

I was altogether absent from Diarbekir for a period of twenty-four days. On leaving it I had not contemplated an absence of more than ten, but circumstances induced me to prolong my absence. I have endeavoured to give a truthful and unvarnished account of what I have seen and heard, and I trust that Her Majesty's Government will approve of the manner in which I have performed my duties.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER, *Major*,
In charge of Kurdistan Consulate.

Inclosure 2 in No. 567.

Report presented to Major Trotter by Fifty Mayors of the Caza de Midiatte.

(Traduit de l'Arabe.) *Le 20 Février*, 1879.

§ 1. LE fameux rebelle Hadjo, à la suite de longs pourparlers et sur l'avis de la Cour d'Appel avait fait sa soumission à la condition de recevoir un "Boufroulti" justificateur pour vaquer tranquillement aux affaires honnêtes. Notre Caïmacam, Hadji Said Effendi, grâce aux insinuations du Beg Osman El-Timour, seigneur de la commune Djihan Arwassi, loin de livrer le mandat convenu, a fait arrêter Hadjo et l'a contraint de payer 1,000 piastres, à titre de libération; deux ou trois jours après, sous un futile prétexte et par les intrigues réitérées d'El-Timour, Hadjo est de nouveau arrêté; le payement d'une pareille somme le rend libre; enfin la même comédie se répète une troisième fois, la même somme est de nouveau payée. La quatrième fois, le pauvre prévenu en déchoe ne pouvant plus se procurer la somme demandée, par une indignation de sauvage, se décide et réussit à s'évader du cachot et a commencé de plus belle son métier de chef de pillards qu'il continue jusqu'en ce moment, par rancune au Caïmacam.

§ 2. Les habitants du Caza de Midiatte se sont partagé depuis un temps reculé en deux camps ennemis: "les Dekchouri et les Hafirki." Il ne suffit qu'un futile prétexte pour que ces ennemis irréconciliables s'entre-détruisent sans trêve et merci.

Or, il arriva que Behrem Pacha, notre ex-Mutessarif, fut invité par la Sublime Porte à la présidence d'une Commission organisée exprès pour introduire la paix e une amélioration tant désirée dans notre sandjak. Aussitôt arrivé à Midiatte tous les perturbateurs de la sécurité publique furent saisis et expédiés à Mardine pour un jugement ultérieur. Parmi les prévenus se trouvait en même temps le frère d'Osman Eltimouri, sous l'accusation d'avoir mal versé le Trésor Impérial.

Lond Agha, loin de se soumettre à la sommation du Président qui l'avait précédé au chef-lieu, par l'appât d'or, se réconcilie et s'associe notre Caïmacam; il exécute un razzia des plus fructueux chez ses adversaires—les Hafirki: le village Khambili subit d'abord son pillage. Après y avoir blessé beaucoup de paysans, il l'incendie, entraînant à sa suite les vieillards et les chefs survivants à titre d'otage. De là, par la rapidité d'un éclair, il désole les communes de Bassiret, Salihan, Rakhouran, Divan, et Kerbouran Sèbre, desquels il réquisitionne autant d'argent et de bétail possible; au seul village de Kerbouran le payement de 5,000 piastres, etc.

Pendant toute cette excursion honnête, notre incorruptible Caïmacam Hadji Aly Bey accompagnait le scélérat; sans nul doute, il devait avoir sa part de lion.

§ 3. Les exactions de cet abominable oppresseur ne s'arrêtent pas à cette date; Hadji Aly avait un prédécesseur, Emine Effendi, qui fut à son tour gagné par le

pillard. Ce sont les Hafirki encore qui payent les frais de cette association gaspilleuse; en voici la liste:—

Les villages de:—

Kéli Moudru.—Pillage de cinquante maisons et le massacre de quatre hommes.

Khavarik.—Vingt maisons pillées, trois hommes pendus.

Kelioukh.—Sans parler du viol de ses femmes, neuf hommes massacrés, et la réquisition de 4,000 moutons.

Bakhissan.—Rançon de 10,000 piastres et chaque maison deux brebis.

Divan.—Pillage de ses chaumières et 1,500 piastres réquisition.

Par une seconde descente le tyran se procure, aux villages Divan et Kerbouran, 3,500 piastres et l'enlèvement, à titre d'otage, d'une quarantaine d'habitants qu'on incarcère aux cachots de Midiatte, à l'exception de quatre, qu'on expédie à Mardine; les autres payent, pour être mis en liberté, chacun par tête, 1,000 piastres.

(Membres de la famille d'El-Timour, auteurs de ces actes. Lond, son aîné Sari Khan; ses cousins, Ismail, etc.).

§ 4. Sous le caïmacamat du susdit Emine Effendi, les frères et cousins d'El-Timour, à la tête des Kurdes armés, envahissent la commune adverse Wabis, où, après le pillage d'une cinquantaine de maisons, ils tuent quatre paysans et blessent trois femmes.

§ 5. D'où ils accourent, en compagnie d'Emine Effendi au village Halekh, qui s'en débarrasse par le rançon de 1,000 piastres et par le pillage de dix maisons.

§ 6. Le bandit Hadjo, à la tête des pillards, et conduit par le fils aîné d'El-Timour, assiége le village Mérani, et, après y avoir pillé une vingtaine de maisons et tué deux paysans, s'en retirent.

§ 7. Lors de la présente rebellion des Beder-Khanzadé, par l'ordre Impérial, tous les Chefs Kurdes furent invités à coopérer pour l'extinction de l'insurrection; El-Timour fut du nombre. Lors de retour de l'expédition de Djéziré, il assaillit le village Houssiy qu'il pille en règle; le village Kharbe-Chérif a son tour de rançon; Medo le suit. Il extorque un nommé Koro une belle jument (coûtant 5,000 piastres), et tous ses bœufs. Koro l'indomptable ne subit pas docilement ses exactions; il s'en plaigne à la justice. Osman-El-Timour fut mandé au vilayet, mais grâce à la complaisance du Caïmacam, retournant les effets du pillage, il a éludé l'invitation. La jument aussitôt rendue à Koro, succombait par une maladie inconnue; en faisant l'autopsie du pauvre animal, on trouve du poison, et on constate l'iniquité perverse du tyran; on connaît trop son histoire à Diarbékir.

§ 8. Le nommé Mouhammed Bini-Hadji, de la commune Behvari, fut assassiné, par la participation d'un fils d'Eltimouri, par les frères Osman et Aly Bini-Boughdi; un jugement rendu par la Cour d'Appel en condamna les auteurs aux galères. Un des condamnés, Osman, s'en est évadé. El-Timouri, au su de tout le monde, l'abrita chez lui. Le Caïmacam épiait une occasion pour surprendre l'évadé; comme ce dernier fut visible en ville pour l'achat, les gens de l'autorité l'arrêtèrent sur le champ. Son protecteur cependant ne l'abandonnait pas. Eltimouri se dépêche à Midiatte, et sans même daigner de prendre l'avis du Caïmacam, fait ouvrir le cachot et libère l'assassin.

§ 9. Le nommé Abdi, natif de Téhéle, guettait une caravane où se trouvait un Séïd, pauvre en apparence mais qu'il croyait très-riche; la proie surprise fut aussitôt massacré pour être pillée aisément par Abdi. Par la dénonciation des parents du défunt, l'assassin découvert fut condamné à la galère.

Par la même effronterie Osman-Eltimouri, gagne cette fois le chef des gendarmes et délivre le scélérat de son cachot.

§ 10. Les Chefs de la contrée Hizine, les fils de Témo,* à la tête des Kurdes armés envahissent le village Adjib, y tuent trois hommes, le pillent, et l'incendient. Grâce à la terreur inspirée par leurs protecteurs Osman Eltimouri, les paysans n'osent pas se plaindre aux autorités.

§ 11. Les Chefs Kurdes de la contrée Hissari, père et fils Kidjo, assiégent, à la tête de nombreux pillards, le village Babizi; y tuent trois hommes et blessent deux femmes. Comme leurs protecteurs El-Timour s'était entendu avec le Caïmacam, les paysans se sont abstenu de se plaindre pour ne pas être renvoyés.

§ 12. Les contribuables de Mézènroukh, dépendant du Caza Midiatte, furent très-exacts aux impôts. Pour les mieux assurer contre les déprédations des Kurdes nomades, leurs Excellences le Vali et notre Mutessarif, Thimour Pacha, ordonnèrent leur colonisation. Une amnistie générale fut accordée à tous les pillards à la condition de cesser la vie errante. Le Chef Hadjo fut du nombre des graciés, auquel on assigna,

* Ils s'appellent Hassan, Aly, Ahmed, et Ismail.
† Ils s'appellent Abdul-Rahman et Mouhammed.

comme résidence fixe, le village Mézènroukh-Hadjo, suivi de Davoud Aglia, Caïmacam d'alors, vint s'y établir malgré les objections des habitants, de la présence d'ex-pillards terrifiés, qui consentirent l'admettre, cependant, sur l'assurance du Gouvernement que Hadjo dorénavant mènerait une vie plaisable.

Après deux mois de vie de gentleman dans sa nouvelle résidence, Hadjo rompit sa diète; s'est réuni avec ses ex-collègues en méfaits (les nommés Hassan Chemdine, Hassan Temo, Abdul-Rahman Kindjo), et se met en campagne; à la tête des malfaiteurs ils envahissent le village Kufry, qui subit le pillage général de ses soixante-dix maisons, on y tue six hommes et blesse sept. Le rendez-vous du pillage général et du point de jonction fut donné à Dirzébino, résidence des susdits Chefs. De là, une grande bande de pillards commandée par H. Témo, exécuta un razzia des plus fructueux au village Chor, qui subit le massacre de quatre paysans et l'enlèvement de tous ses bestiaux. Au moment de jonction des deux Chefs Hadjo et Témo, les hommes armés, sortis de Midiatte les surprennent; au combat qui en résulte le cousin de Hadjo tombe de même que quatre des assaillants. Ensuite les gens de Midiatte abordent le village Kerchafi, le nid des pillards, et l'incendient.

Quant à Hadjo, quoique déconcerté, il retourne dans sa maison, mais persiste dans son métier; alors notre Mutessarif vint pour le réduire à main armée. Son protecteur-associé, El-Timour, veut, par l'invasion et l'incendie de Mézenroukh (où les femmes furent violées et sept hommes massacrés) soustraire l'attention du Pacha et débloquer son ami. Celui-ci, après une entrevue avec le Colonel assiégeant, grâce au cadeau d'une jument et de 10,000 piastres, fut déclaré innocent. La somme provenant de la vente des effets de pillage fut partagée entre les deux Chefs et le Colonel en question.

(Suivent cinquante signatures.)

No. 568.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 23.)

(No. 7. Political.)

My Lord, *Aleppo, April* 3, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch I have addressed to Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary at Constantinople reporting on the administration of this vilayet by the ex-Governor-General, Kiamil Pasha.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure in No. 568.

Consul Henderson to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Aleppo, March* 20, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report the departure from Aleppo this morning of Kiamil Pasha, late Governor-General of this province, whose duties have been provisionally assumed by the military Commandant, Omer Pasha.

Kiamil Pasha has held the provincial Government here for upwards of two years. He arrived with a fair reputation, based on his previous administration for a short time as Governor of the city of Aleppo. The late Dervish Pasha was then Governor-General of the province, and his thorough efficiency and respectability reflected favourably on the exercise of Kiamil Pasha's subordinate functions. A certain amount of assiduity in the transaction of business by the latter had obtained for him a certain predisposition in his favour on the part of the population, while the strict justice and perfect integrity of his immediate superior secured the interests confided to his care from all risk of being unfairly treated.

Not long after his return to Aleppo as Governor-General, however, it began to be remarked that appeals to him against abuses of power committed in the various departments of the local Government did not receive the least attention, and no such watchful check as existed in the time of Dervish Pasha could be found to the malpractices indulged in by some of the authorities. Complaints were made of causes gained by the corrupting of Judges, and immunity enjoyed by the associating of the police in the plunder

of burglaries, but the Governor-General met them all with a cold disclaimer of any power to interfere in judicial matters.

Kiamil Pasha thus soon became suspected of complicity with bribed Tribunals and a corrupt constabulary.

The farming of the tithes removed all doubt on the subject when speculators, contracting for their collection, made no secret of the large profits they derived from collusion with the authorities. Whether it be well or ill founded is not for me to decide, but the existence of a general conviction, that pecuniary arrangements had become the only means of satisfactorily concluding public and private business at the seat of the local Government, is abundantly evident. Salient cases of injustice were not wanting to prove the utter absence of conscientiousness in the administration of Kiamil Pasha.

A cavass of the British Consulate was assassinated, for instance, in the most unprovoked manner, and his murderers were screened from justice by every kind of chicanery, the alteration of their names at the police office, the forgery of documents to discredit the witnesses, by the direct intervention of Kiamil Pasha himself, and even the condemnation to death on a false accusation of the innocent son of the murdered man.

The remonstrances made met with no response from the Governor-General, and it was only after long delay and much trouble that I could succeed in obtaining a sentence against the assassins. The disgraceful particulars of this case could not fail to leave on my mind a very unfavourable impression of the character of Kiamil Pasha, and I am sorry to be obliged to add that that opinion of him has been fully confirmed by his conduct in the more recent case of the disturbances on Mount Taurus. They have completely proved that he has been guilty of great cruelty towards the Christians, of the utmost degree of unscrupulousness in his communications to the Sultan's Government, and of the greatest perfidy in his relations with Her Majesty's Consulate. He persecuted to death unoffending Armenian women and children, allowed a Bishop to be insulted and scoffed at in public, and disarmed the Christians of Zeitoun in the same manner as those of Mount Lebanon and Damascus in 1860, when 7,000 Christians were massacred in consequence, and the Governor-General was executed for it.

He garbled and distorted the facts in his reports to the Porte, to make out that he had repressed an insurrection which, in truth, was fomented by himself and his agents, while he falsely asserted that it was caused by Russian intrigue. He did not hesitate to intercept my letters and misrepresent the expressions contained in them, hoping thereby to relieve himself of the onus of his misdeeds, while he knew that my only wish was to assist him in the averting of bloodshed.

I need not now recapitulate circumstances which are well known to Her Majesty's Embassy, and I confine myself, on this occasion, to the general statements, that the reputation of Kiamil Pasha, as a provincial Governor, which had previously declined, has recently fallen to the lowest ebb through his reprehensible conduct, and that he leaves Aleppo without raising any feeling of regret—his only adherents being those who found substantial advantages in the illicit traffic carried on with him, such as speculating on the rise and fall of the paper currency, which he regulated in a manner exceedingly profitable to them and to himself.

Vainly hoping to enable him to recover his position here, and to continue their lucrative transactions with him, they presented him with a sword and an address of fulsome praise, but the names connected with it cannot give it any weight as an expression of public opinion.

The great majority of the population rejoices in the most unequivocal manner at the departure of Kiamil Pasha, whose perfunctory discharge of his duties evinced energy and ability only on occasions when his self-interest was at stake.

The action of Her Majesty's Embassy in protecting the Armenians from a persecution which had become insupportable has called forth the warmest expressions of gratitude to your Excellency from all classes of the Eutychian Armenians—from the Patriarch to the humblest peasant—and has caused our influence with them to become paramount.

Your Excellency's exposure of Kiamil Pasha's duplicity to his own Government, and your insisting on his recall, has reduced to a minimum the danger of further disturbances on Mount Taurus, disturbances which might have given the Porte great trouble to repress, and would have exhausted the local treasury of the money collected with such difficulty, and so urgently required elsewhere.

In conclusion, I would inform your Excellency that Kiamil Pasha has industriously collected an immense number of documents of doubtful authenticity, and procured by

means which render them valueless, to prove his innocence, and in the hope that he may again return to a post which has proved so lucrative to him as Aleppo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

No. 569.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 8. Political.)
My Lord, *Aleppo, April 5*, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a further despatch I have addressed to Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary *ad interim* at Constantinople with reference to the administration of the ex-Governor-General.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure in No. 569.

Consul Henderson to Mr. Mulet.

Sir, *Aleppo, April 5*, 1879.

ADVERTING to my despatch of the 20th ultimo, in which I reported the departure of Kiamil Pasha from Aleppo, I have now the honour to inform you of the last efforts he has made in this province to lead the Sultan's Government into error with respect to the nature of his administration here.

On passing through Antiveh, Beylan, and Alexandretta, he procured declarations, signed by some of those dependent on the local authorities there, whom he told that he certainly would soon return to Aleppo, to the effect that his temporary absence is universally regretted, and that he had transacted the public business of the province with the utmost efficiency and integrity. It is a matter of absolute notoriety, however, that those several allegations are all entirely without foundation.

Far from being regretted, his recall was hailed with perfect satisfaction by a great majority in all classes of the population, and, instead of being considered immaculate, his administration has been generally regarded as the most corrupt and the most prejudicial to the prosperity of the country that has ever been seen at Aleppo. Another document, secured at the last moment for exhibition at Constantinople, is an attestation by some of his subordinates at Marash, that the Turkish language is understood by the Christian members of the so-called Court of Justice which condemned the Armenian prisoners at Zeitoun.

Kiamil Pasha is probably aware of my having reported their ignorance of the language in which the sentence is couched, and he obtained this false statement with the view of controverting my assertion of the truth. His final act at Aleppo displays the astounding effrontery and deceitfulness of his nature. At a time when people were openly computing the amount which he is believed to have collected here by bribery and fraudulent manipulation of the paper currency, and which is said to have reached a total of about 12,000*l.*, he had the assurance to come forward with a device for the refutation of this popular view of the case, by borrowing a small sum to defray his travelling expenses to Constantinople. He could have obtained it with ease from any of the usual money-lenders of the town, but, in order to give a colour to the proceeding, in favour of his hoped-for success with the Porte, he made it more conspicuous by becoming the debtor of a native invested with Consular authority, who lent him 200*l.*

I have also ascertained that he has devised a most unscrupulous means of endeavouring to throw discredit on the opinions I have arrived at, by aspersing the reputation of the Governor of Dair, who was selected with great care by Safvet Pasha as the fittest person for that difficult appointment when it fell vacant some months ago. Ali Pasha's innocence of this insidious charge, brought against him for reasons unconnected with himself, is too well known to entail much trouble in its vindication, and such slanders can but redound to the confusion of their inventor.

The recall of Kiamil Pasha from the provincial administration of affairs at Aleppo is a result which it is impossible to view otherwise than as a timely relief of very great

suffering on the part of an important Christian community, and as an opportune saving of the credit and prestige enjoyed by the Ottoman Government.

In his address of thanks to his adherents for the presentation of the sword, as published in the official journal of the vilayet, he describes the Christians of Zeitoun as insects. As this is the only journal allowed to be published in the vilayet, and has a large circulation, I shall send your Excellency a copy of it, and a translation of this speech, by next post.

The manner in which he has treated the population of Zeitoun during a period of disorder is indeed remarkable for the absence of every principle of justice and humanity, while his conduct in the vain attempts he is making to distort facts to his own advantage betrays an utter want of all conscientiousness and sense of honour. These lamentable deficiencies in the essential character of a high functionary cannot fail to be detected when the circumstances are fully and fairly considered.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

No. 570.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 300. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Pera, April 8, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 289 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I showed the Minister of Foreign Affairs the instructions which I had drawn up for Lieutenant Chermside previous to his leaving for Aleppo, and I requested his Excellency to let the Grand Vizier see them. His Excellency, however, said he thought it better not to do so. The Grand Vizier had been averse to Lieutenant Chermside's going at all, as he considered that his presence would affect the character of the Commission for independence. There were passages in the instructions which suggested more interference on Mr. Chermside's part than he thought the Grand Vizier would approve of, and he therefore thought it better, as our object was attained, not to recall his Highness' attention to the subject. Under these circumstances, I desisted from the intention recorded in my above-mentioned despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 571.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 301.)
My Lord, *Pera, April 8, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a Memorandum from the Ministry of Justice stating that the two priests, Panos and Artui, who had been brought as prisoners to Constantinople from Zeitoun, will now be sent back to Aleppo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 571.

Memorandum.

L'ENQUÊTE qui doit se faire sur les affaires de Zeitoun ne pouvait pas se passer du témoignage des deux prêtres, Panos et Artui, relevant de l'Evêque Arménien de Zeitoun qui étaient détenus au Grand Zaptieh, ils viennent d'être mis en liberté sous caution pour se rendre à Alep avec la Commission qui est sur le point de partir. Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères m'a communiqué les Mémorandums de l'Ambassade d'Angleterre ainsi que le Rapport fait par Mr. Malet qui s'était rendu lui-même sur les lieux pour examiner cette question, et le Ministre de l'Intérieur m'a demandé de donner mon opinion à ce sujet. Quoique les motifs d'arrestation de ces deux prêtres soient expliqués dans les pièces transmises par le vilayet, aucun document judiciaire relatif aux causes ne nous étant pas parvenu, et la présence des prêtres à Alep devant faciliter à procureur les accusations portées contre eux par le Gouvernement local et fournir des renseignements pour l'éclaircissement de l'affaire, ce Ministère n'a vu aucun inconvénient à ce qu'ils y soient envoyés.

Le 27 Mars, 1879.

No. 572.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 303.)
My Lord, *Pera, April 11, 1879.*

WITH regard to the question of the mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I stated to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 3rd instant that I did not urge its acceptance by the Porte for the moment without, however, renouncing it. I observed that it was of vital necessity that the Porte should have troops ready to occupy Bourgas and Ichtiman, and I insisted upon knowing what numbers of troops were available for this purpose, and their present position. When I made this communication the Government was already wavering in its objection to the mixed occupation, and when the military authorities were called upon to state distinctly the numbers and position of the available forces, the answer was such that the Porte, seeing that it was not in a position to cope with the difficulties which had been prepared for it in Eastern Roumelia by Russia, was ready to consent to the proposal.

But while the Porte, at the eleventh hour, was arriving at a knowledge of its own deficiencies, the aspect of the question of mixed occupation, as it was originally proposed, changed its complexion. The refusal of France and Germany to take part, and the hesitation of Italy, made it clear that the occupation would have to be made by England and Austria alone of the neutral Powers.

There was all the difference possible between the general occupation of many Powers contributing small contingents to create a moral effect, and occupation by two or three Powers who would be obliged to send large contingents in order to be in a position to suppress insurrection by force. In the latter case, the Powers taking part must be perfectly certain that they agreed, for discordant views must infalliby lead to trouble.

I submitted these considerations to the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs the day before yesterday, and I stated that Her Majesty's Government was not disposed to send such large forces as would, under the circumstances, be required, and that on other grounds they did not encourage the idea.

The Ministers, who had gradually come round to desiring mixed occupation, in exactly the same ratio as the chances of its realization diminished, became aware that, true to the invetorate policy of the Porte, they were, once more, unfortunately, certainly not for the last time, too late.

I think it right to observe that ever since I have been in charge of Her Majesty's Embassy, I have not ceased to point out the lamentable condition of the military power of the Porte, while it is fair, on the other hand, to state that, although this is in some measure due to the incapacity of Ghazi Osman Pasha, Minister of War, as an administrator, it is also the inevitable consequence of the penury to which the Porte is reduced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 573.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 309.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 11, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, in accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 10 of the 7th instant, I stated to the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the 8th instant, that the Greek question was assuming serious proportions.

If allowed to drag on it might become very dangerous to Turkey. The Powers were consulting on the Greek Circular. Both France and Germany were anxious for an united mediation, and Her Majesty's Government would not be able to refuse their concurrence.

The Porte would be compelled to consent, as both Russia and Germany had stated that they were willing to send their ships into the Mediterranean.

The Powers would then insist on much more than they would accept at the present moment.

I said that I was instructed by your Lordship to state that if the Porte would now place the matter in the hands of Her Majesty's Government, they were confident that they could save the towns of Janina and Larissa, and that they had very good authority for that belief, but that the matter must be placed absolutely in their hands.

I went on to say that if the Porte refused this proposal Her Majesty's Government would not be responsible for the result. The mediation would go on, and the Porte would have to deal with the Six Powers as best it could; but Her Majesty's Government earnestly warned it of the danger of longer delay.

I had the honour to communicate the same information personally to the Sultan on the 9th instant.

Yesterday, seeing that no answer reached me, I spoke to the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs very seriously on the subject, and said that unless an answer came by the evening the Porte would probably again be too late.

The Grand Vizier said that the question was to be immediately submitted to the Council. The Porte was very desirous to save either Prevesa or Volo, and if Her Majesty's Government could do that for it his Highness would be extremely grateful.

I replied that it was no longer a question of saving Prevesa or Volo; that the message which I had given showed that unless the Porte at once accepted the offer of Her Majesty's Government it would lose Janina and Larissa.

I reminded his Highness of the friendly disposition of Her Majesty's Government, and I said that what England could not obtain would certainly not be obtained by the Porte when it had to deal with united mediation.

His Highness owned to the wisdom of accepting the offer of Her Majesty's Government; but I perceived that he was not confident of being able to persuade his colleagues.

At 7 o'clock in the evening Serkis Effendi, the head of the Political Department at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, came to me and said that the decision of the Council was that the Porte consented to place itself in the hands of Her Majesty's Government, but that it was necessary that the rectification of frontier should be made on the basis of a line starting from Elia on the west coast, thence going north to above Kalavrytas, and south by Karditza, Pharsala, and Volo, to a point near Zagora on the east coast.

I pointed out to Serkis Effendi that this could not be regarded as an acceptance of the offer made by Her Majesty's Government, and that I feared it was of little use sending it, although I would not refuse to do so.

On returning to the Embassy to telegraph, at 9 o'clock, I received a letter from Serkis Effendi to say that he was instructed to request me to telegraph nothing to your Lordship with regard to the communication which he had made to me until I heard further on the subject.

I am not acquainted with the cause of this request.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 574.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 23.*)

(No. 312.)

Pera, April 11, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copies of despatches upon matters of interest in their respective districts which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls and Vice-Consuls at Adrianople, Philippopolis, Rustchuk, and Prevesa.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 574.

Acting Consul Calvert to Mr. Malet.

Sir,

Adrianople, April 7, 1879.

THE person referred to in my despatch to your Excellency of the 25th ultimo, who is an impartial and trustworthy Bulgarian, having returned from the districts of Eastern Roumelia, in which are situated the three villages where massacres were reported by the Turkish military authorities at Mustafa Pasha to have taken place between two and three weeks ago, I have received from him the following information, obtained, in each case, by inquiry on the spot:—

Your Excellency will perceive that although there have been excesses and bloodshed of the usual character, there is, as I anticipated would be the case, nothing that can be held to substantiate the reports in question.

My informant visited Sarhanli on the 27th ultimo. Of the original Turkish population of that village (a mixed one) only twelve or fourteen families remain, the vacant houses being occupied by Bulgarian settlers. Twelve of the Turks have been killed, but at different times spread over the last four months. The remainder, living in constant fear of death, and, unable to venture out of doors, suffer much privation. The account given by a fugitive from that place, and reported in my above-mentioned despatch, of tortures inflicted on the Mollah and his wife, is fully confirmed by this Bulgarian authority.

Sadykli was visited by him on the 28th March. He found it deserted and in ruins. The Bulgarians having destroyed it when it was first abandoned by its Turkish inhabitants, the latter on their return took up their quarters at the neighbouring village of Drenovo. They were very badly treated there, the Bulgarians stripping them of all they possessed and forcing them to work like slaves. My informant did not hear of any persons having been put to death, as reported in my despatch above referred to on the authority of a fugitive Turk, but as the whole of these unfortunate people (of Sadykli) came away about a week ago, and are now here, I have taken the opportunity of questioning them on the subject. The consistent details given by them can leave no doubt on my mind that, although the number of such cases proves to have been four only instead of five (occurring at periods varying from six to four weeks ago), these have been accompanied by circumstances of even greater atrocity than was at first stated. I shall not, however, enter on this matter here, my present report being confined to the subject of the alleged massacres.

As regards the third village, Indjirli, which my informant visited on the 30th ultimo, it appears that the occurrences there had not even the importance attributed to them by the version reported in my above-mentioned despatch. They were limited to an affray which arose between a detachment of Don Cossacks and another of Cossacks of the Oural quartered there, and which resulted in three of the former being wounded.

Whilst the reports in question thus prove to be unfounded, my Bulgarian informant in the course of his tour ascertained that a tragedy, which may be said to attain the proportions of a massacre, has occurred at so late a date as the 27th ultimo at Koltchulari. This is a mixed village of 150 Bulgarian and (at present) 30 Turkish houses. On the morning after the above date the members of three entire families (Turkish), numbering twelve persons in all, were found strangled in their houses. These had been pillaged. No disturbance was heard during the night. The sub-Governor of Harmanli had been informed of the crime, but no steps had been taken in the matter up to the date of my informant's visit, the 31st March.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 574.

Acting Consul Calvert to Mr. Malet.

Sir,

Adrianople, April 7, 1879.

IN my despatch of the 25th ultimo, I mentioned the continuous arrival here of Turkish fugitives from Eastern Roumelia, and that several villages had been abandoned by the whole of their inhabitants.

The movement since that date has gone on increasing, and has, within the last two or three days, taken the largest proportions. From the concurrent statements of the

latest refugees arrived from Kyzanlik, Eski-Zaghra, Yeni-Zaghra, Yamboli, and Slivno, it is evident that nothing less than a complete exodus of the Mussulman population of the Balkan districts is now in progress.

I have taken pains to ascertain by inquiry among the refugees the truth of the report which is current here, to the effect that this movement has been caused by an order from the Russian authorities. I learn that, although those authorities have everywhere facilitated, and in some places encouraged, the departure of the Turkish population, they have in no instance decreed it. Such an order would indeed have been superfluous.

I have had the honour to state in previous reports that such Turkish inhabitants as had returned to their homes in the cazas of Eski-Zaghra, Yeni-Zaghra, Yamboli, and Slivno bitterly repented having done so, and that all who had the necessary means were coming away. That tendency has received a fresh stimulus from the recent fresh outbreak of Bulgarian malevolence. The Russian authorities, on the other hand, have now thrown open the railway free of charge to all who may choose to avail themselves of it, and the result is an exodus of the entire Turkish population of the above-mentioned districts.

The same effect has been produced in the Caza of Kyzanlik, but from somewhat different causes. The treatment of the Turks in those parts appears to have been relatively favourable. The pillage, although very general, does not seem to have been so thorough as elsewhere, and only one case of the now common process of torture by fire is spoken of as having occurred there. It is true that the Mussulmans of Kyzanlik have been despoiled in an exceptionally formal and systematic fashion of their lands, which they have been told were forfeited "to Russia," and which have been methodically surveyed, measured off, and distributed among the Bulgarian inhabitants. Consistently with these proceedings, such cattle as they had retained were appropriated with the remark, that "It befits not the Turks, but Bulgarians only, to possess such property." For all that, their lives and family honour being respected, they clung to their homes and were content to hope for better times and to gain a subsistence meanwhile as labourers on a pittance of 2 piastres (about 2*d.*) a-day, that is, less than a fourth of the wages given to Christians.

It is but quite recently that they decided to abandon, for the second time, their native district. They give the following reason for so-doing:—Within the last forty days drilling and military preparations have become more and more incessant and the Bulgarians more and more insolent and threatening, these saying, "If there is war again, before we march we will exterminate all you Turks of Kyzanlik." Remembering how much was done towards that end eighteen months ago, as soon as they heard that free passes by rail to Adrianople were being granted the whole remaining Turkish population of the district, to the number of 1,200 families, applied for passports, and these were at once given them by the sub-Governor.

Not a Turk—man, woman, or child—I am assured, now remains in the Caza of Kyzanlik, nor in that of Eski-Zaghra. The other Balkan districts are likewise being rapidly emptied of their Mussulman population. The refugees arrive here in shoals every day by rail, and the stations on the Yamboli line are said to be encumbered by those awaiting conveyance.

It would be an endless task, and one monotonous in its painfulness, to record the piteous narratives which fill the mouths of these poor people. Their statements are of the same character as those which have already become but too familiar through my own and other Consular Reports from the provinces in Russian occupation. I prefer to mention, as some relief to the picture, that the people of Kyzanlik are not in quite so destitute a condition as the refugees from other places, and that they and some of the latter cherish the hope that this emigration will prove to be, like the last, but a temporary one, and that, through the help of civilized Europe, happier days in their old homes may be in store for them at last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 574.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Mulet.

Sir, *Philippopolis, April* 6, 1879.

I HAD the honour to telegraph to you this evening that an emigration of the Turkish inhabitants of Tatar-Bazardjik to Philippopolis has begun to take place, owing to a series of outrages committed upon them by the Bulgarians during the past four days, and that the Turkish population of the villages has also begun to flock into Tatar-Bazardjik and Philippopolis to escape from similar ill-treatment inflicted upon them by the Bulgarians.

From the statements of two Turks, Mehmed Ali and Ahmet Tchamaly, who arrived from Tatar-Bazardjik to-day, it would appear that about four days ago the Bulgarians of that place began to commit numerous outrages upon the Turkish inhabitants, and that the victims have been unable to obtain any redress from the Russian authorities there.

On my requesting these Turks to furnish me with particulars of these outrages, they stated:—

That five nights ago a number of Bulgarians entered the house of one Samoudjou Ali Efendi, beat and robbed him of his money, and violated his wife.

That on the following night the Bulgarians broke into the house of Aziz Mollah, and violated his daughter and two other women.

That the night before last Mutevellioglou Hakki was dragged from his house for the purpose of being murdered, and was only saved by the intervention of the Mukhtar and others.

They further stated that no Turk can stir out of doors after sunset without danger to himself; that three or four Turks of the town have disappeared during the last four days; and that the whole of the Turkish population of the villages in the Tatar-Bazardjik district have come into that town to escape from the persecution they have lately suffered at the hands of the Bulgarians.

I have to add that the whole of the Turkish population of the village of Iné Begtchi, a village in this district, came into Philippopolis two days ago, owing to the conduct of the Bulgars towards them.

Some forty Turks of both sexes have already arrived here from Tatar-Bazardjik, and many more are expected to follow them shortly, unless the Russian authorities choose to protect them against the outrages of the Bulgarians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 574.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Consul-General Palgrave.

Sir, *Rustchuk, April* 3, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that, in accordance with your instructions, I went to Shumla on the 31st ultimo to see if any steps had been taken to destroy the fortifications of that place according to the Treaty of Berlin.

I called on the Governor, and was informed by him that one fort had been destroyed. It was called "Tchengel Tabia," and was, I believe, a very minor construction. The wooden props, rafters, &c., of the casemates had been brought into town, and are now on sale, and the parapets, &c., have been levelled by forced labour.

In reply to my inquiry as to how long it would take to raze all the works, the Governor told me that it would take at least five years, as the demand for building material is very limited.

I suggested that a few charges of gunpowder would soon produce the desired effect, but was informed that as that would necessitate the loss of the greater part of the dressed stones, timber, &c., there was no intention of employing such means.

I had not time to go round all the forts, but the answers to all the inquiries I made tended to the same result, viz., that with the exception of Tchengel Tabia, the fortifications of Shumla are practically intact.

I saw several of the forts to the north and east, and went all over "Besh Teppé Tabia," regarding which I have to remark that some 10 or 12 yards of the retaining wall of the great central traverse has fallen down, the "Toughra" above the entrance has

been pulled out, and some of the flooring planks in the casemates have been removed; otherwise, this fort is in very good order, except the necessary breaking up of the foundations of the big guns, done by the Turks to enable them to remove the platforms.

There are five battalions of Russian troops and about seven companies of Bulgarian in the town. The National Guard is to be called out in fourteen days, and there seems to be an intention of compelling the Turks to serve in that force. If this measure is really attempted to be carried out it will give rise to many difficulties, and probably resistance. The same thing has been talked of here, but I believe as yet no decision has been come to.

The state of public health is very good, and there are now very few refugees.

On my way I was agreeably surprised to see that a very considerable extent of land is under crop, much more than I anticipated, and the appearance of the fields is good.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 5 in No. 574.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Malet.

(Private and Confidential.)
Sir, *Prevesa, March 15, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival of the new Italian Vice-Consul, Mr. Milleline.

With reference to the Albanian movement, I beg to state that at the bidding of the Albanian Chiefs a great many of them have come to Prevesa. Several Christians from the country have also been brought hither by the Beys for the purpose of declaring before Mukhtar Pasha that they are perfectly satisfied with the Sultan's Government. Four of the above Christians presented themselves at this Vice-Consulate this morning, and told me that they came to Prevesa because the Beys, in whose chifliks they lived, told them to do so. These people explained to me that they were under the absolute control of the Beys, and that they must do exactly as they are bid. They were made to sign two Petitions, one written in Turkish and the other in Italian, but as to the contents of the above Petitions they had not the slightest idea.

It appears that the authorities are going to supply a certain number of Government rifles (sixty) to the Christians, who are to be formed into a sort of rural police.

Vessil Bey, who as I have already informed your Excellency is a member of the Albanian League, was sent for the other day by Ali Pasha, but Vessil Bey was afraid to go to him, and the Albanians hearing of this immediately went to Vessil's house to protect him. After a great deal of persuasion, however, on the part of Ali Pasha, he was induced to go.

Whatever steps the Albanians are taking with respect to their own affairs, I am given to understand that they are acting quite independently, and that the authorities do not meddle with them in any way. Still, I deem it my duty to report that the Cadi is the only Government official who comes forward as one of the strongest advocates of the so-called Albanian interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 6 in No. 574.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Prevesa, April 5, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy and translation of M. Kypriotis' despatch dated 27th ultimo, relating to two acts of brigandage perpetrated at Delvino and Laista, the former a village of Premeti and the latter a village of Zagori.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 7 in No. 574.

M. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)
Sir, *Janina, March 27, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report to you that on the 11th instant some brigands carried off the wealthiest inhabitants of Deloun, village of Premeti, and they demand a heavy ransom. On the 21st instant a band of fifty men, carrying arms of a new pattern, appeared at Laiste, a village of Zagori, and said they were sent thither, after the failure of the Commission at Prevesa, to set down the boundary; by their order prayers were offered in the churches for the Commissioners. But while the people were praying these men secured the church doors, and, under pain of death, exacted payment of a sum of money amounting to 2,000 liras, besides the silver utensils and ornaments they carried off. It is said they killed one man and wounded another.

Public security, within the last few days, has been confided to the Christian Chiefs of Lacce, who have been supplied with 150 rifles.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KYPRIOTIS.

No. 575.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 58. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, April 7, 1879.*

WHILST I was recently at Cettinjé, I witnessed the gathering of all the Montenegrin officials and authorities described in the inclosed translation of the account of it which appeared in the official newspaper, "Glas Czernagorá," of the 22nd ultimo.

No greater importance can be attached to the new State organization than that of a definition of titles and positions, as all the personages named already, more or less, discharged the duties to which they have been now specially appointed.

The power of the Prince remains untouched, and he will continue to exercise his personal will without the slightest control on the part of his Ministers or of the other branches of the State Administration, the existence of which it has pleased him to make known through the process of a public ceremony.

The people of Montenegro have accepted the changes promulgated with the satisfaction arising from an unbounded faith in the right of their Prince to dispose unquestioned of their persons and property.

It is, however, only fair to add that Prince Nicholas, on his side, is strongly desirous of advancing the welfare of his people, and that His Highness is firmly convinced that the formality he has now gone through will add greatly to their happiness, and to the reputation of the Principality abroad.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 575.

Account from the "Glas Czernagorá" of the new State Organization.

(Translation.)

BY order of His Highness the Prince, all the Chiefs of districts were assembled at Cettinjé, in order to communicate to them the new organization of the direction of State affairs.

The meeting was held on the 8th (20th) instant, at 2 P.M., in the Convent Palace.

His Highness arrived accompanied by all the Senators, and was enthusiastically hailed by the assembled Captains of Circumscriptions and Districts, who numbered eighty-three.

His Highness the Prince, in a long speech, explained the necessity of a new organization for the direction of the affairs of State.

After the reading of the new arrangement, His Highness declared that he had taken especial care that these institutions should be in conformity with the national sense, being

simple as possible, economical, agreeing with the wants of the people, and that they should be easy and useful.

At the same meeting were read, in accordance with a Superior Decree of His Highness, the nominations of the Members for the Council of State, Ministry, and Grand Superior Tribunal (Court of Appeal).

For the Great Council of State are named:—

Bozo Petronich, President of the Council of State
Voïvada Stanco Radonich, Member.
„ Masco Verbiza, „
„ Elia Plamenaz, „
„ Giuro Cerovich, „
„ Giuro Matanovich, „
Serdar Stanco Vucotich, „
„ Simon Popovich, „

As Ministers are named:—

Voïvada S. Radonich, Minister for Foreign Affairs.
„ M. Verbiza, Minister for the Interior and Public Works.
„ Bozo Petronich, Minister of Justice.
„ G. Cerovich, Minister of Finance.
„ E. Plamenaz, Minister for War.

Until the appointment of a Minister of Public Instruction, the Minister of Finance will be charged with this office.

For the Superior Tribunal are named:—

Bozo Petrovich, President.
Voïvada Giuro Matanovich, Member.
Serdar Stanco Vucotich, „
„ Jagos Radovich, „

On the same day, as also on the following day, the Captains received the necessary instructions, and then returned to their posts.

Cettinjé, March $\frac{19}{31}$, 1879).

No. 576.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 59. Political.)

Scutari, April 8, 1879.

My Lord,

FROM a trustworthy person, a foreigner, who has arrived here from the north-eastern districts of Albania, I learn that the greatest anarchy continues to exist at Jacova and Ivek, and in the surrounding country. The Turkish authorities have been driven away and native notables have replaced them, the Sultan's jurisdiction being publicly denied and scoffed at. However, there are several inexplicable facts connected with this state of things, among which may be noted the apparent acquiescence in the proceedings of the people by Nazif Pasha, the Governor-General of Kossovo, and in the maintenance of Karanitza as Cadi at Monastir. (See despatch, No. 27, Political, of the 5th February, 1879.)

My informant, who happened to be with Mehemed Ali Pasha at Jacova during the first hours of the attack which ended in the death of the unfortunate General, confirms, beyond doubt, the report that the Cadi Karanitza was a principal mover in the tragedy.

From Tirana and other places to the south of Scutari reports reach me that the Mahommedan Albanian gentry have despondently arrived at the conviction that the Sultan's Government has rapidly degenerated, and that connection with it no longer confers honour or safety. Lawlessness and brigandage are rife in the rural districts, and a sense of the necessity of some amelioration or change, other than from Constantinople, is gaining on all classes.

The existence of this feeling is, of course, denied by the representatives of the Government, but it is sufficiently strong to be a danger, from the readiness with which any foreign overtures would be received.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 577.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 61. Political.)

Scutari, April 10, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 55, Political, of the 4th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a translation of the Proclamation published by order of Prince Nicholas at Podgoritza, with the object of reassuring the Mahommedans who were emigrating, under the fear that they were about to be enrolled immediately into the Montenegrin army.

Several Mussulmans have expressed their gratitude to me for having obtained for them this proof of the intention of the Montenegrin Government to loyally observe the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 577.

Proclamation to the Mahommedan Inhabitants of Podgoritza.

(Translation.)

HIS Highness, my august master, having learnt that the emigration of the Mahommedan inhabitants of Podgoritza has been caused by the report which has been spread, that they are about to be shortly inscribed in the Montenegrin national army, has ordered me to make known to the inhabitants of Podgoritza, &c., that the conscription will be put off until after the time which has been fixed to enable them to freely select ours or the Ottoman nationality.

In order to avoid incalculable losses and great misfortunes which await you in foreign lands, after abandoning your hearths and occupations, I counsel you to give up emigrating, and I avail myself of the present occasion to assure you that my most earnest efforts will be devoted towards watching and having care over your well-being and prosperity, knowing well that by this means I will fully carry out the orders and wishes of my august and most clement master.

(Signed) VOÏVADA PLAMENATZ.

Podgoritza, March 1879.

No. 578.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 62. Political.)

Scutari, April 10, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 45, Political, of the 10th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I have been informed that the Italian Government has named M. Zarboni as its Consul here.

M. Zarboni was recently Consul at Janina, but was removed at the same time as M. Berio from Scutari, on the representations, it is believed, of the Austrian Government, which was disposed to be alarmed at the activity of these agents among influential Albanians.

The present nomination of M. Zarboni appears to indicate a change of Italian policy towards Austria, especially as the success which this Consul is said to have met with at Janina marks him more prominently as a Political Agent than his predecessor, M. Berio.

The proceedings of the Italians in Albania are causing as much annoyance to the Greek as to the Austrian Government, but, as far as North Albania is concerned, I am sure that if matters reached the point when the natives would have to select between the Austrians or the Italians, the unanimous voice would be in favour of the former.

The success of the Italian Consuls in pushing their policy in Lower Albania, has arisen from the fact of their having preached to the Mahommedan nobles the advisability of creating an independent Principality apart from Greece or any other State; whilst here they are merely listened to in the uncertainty of Austrian intentions.

From an independent standpoint, the aim of the Italians to prevent the development of Greece and to keep the eastern shores of the Adriatic in a state of chronic weakness is a jealousy which can hardly be justified by national exigencies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 579.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 64. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, April* 11, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 54, Political, of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith an extract from a letter from the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs, communicating to me the reasons which prevent the dispatch by Prince Nicholas of a Representative to Constantinople.

M. Radonich is not quite exact in stating that the request to the Russian Government, to permit its Ambassador to represent Montenegro at Constantinople, was made before my arrival at Cettinjé. It was suggested to the Prince by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires after I had spoken to his Highness on the subject, and in order, more than anything else, to gain a diplomatic victory over the Austrian Minister, who a fortnight before had informed the Prince that on no account whatever would his Government consent to the charge of Montenegrin affairs in Austria being confided to the Russian Ambassador in Vienna.

It is perfectly true that there is a great lack of men in the Principality fit to be intrusted with its interests abroad, especially now that the new annexations have made extraordinary calls on its administrative resources, and it is also no exaggeration to deprecate the expense of the dispatch of a Mission to a foreign Court, as I know it for a fact that the public Treasury, when I was ten days ago at Cettinjé, could not have met a sudden demand for 100*l*.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 579.

M. Radonich to Consul Kirby Green.

(Extrait.) *Cettigné, le* 26 Mars / 7 Avril 1879.

AVANT votre dernier voyage à Cettigné, le Gouvernement Princier, désirant voir ses sujets protégés a l'étranger et ne pouvant nommer dans les circonstances présentes des Agents Diplomatiques, s'était adressé au Gouvernement Impérial de Russie pour le prier d'accorder sa protection aux sujets Monténégrins résidant ou de passage à l'étranger, jusqu'à ce que nous puissions nommer nos Agents.

Cette démarche a été favorablement accueillie par le Gouvernement Russe et nous venons d'apprendre qu'il a fait une démarche dans ce sens à Constantinople. Après cette démarche, il serait fort difficile d'envoyer, pour le moment du moins, un Agent près la Sublime Porte, même en passant sur bien des scrupules et sur les considérations financières, qui ont été le mobile de notre demande auprès de la Russie.

Son Altesse se voit donc obligée pour le moment de ne pas pouvoir suivre la manière de procéder que vous avez bien voulu nous indiquer relativement à la reprise de nos relations avec la Sublime Porte.

Nous espérons que le Gouvernement Ottoman s'empressera de saisir, dans l'intérêt commun, l'occasion de cette démarche (venant après le télégramme de Son Altesse à Sa Majesté le Sultan) faite à notre faveur par le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie, pour montrer ses dispositions favorables au rétablissement des relations cordiales entre les deux pays.

Son Altesse, sachant combien vous avez à cœur la reprise de ces relations, espère que vous continuerez à user de votre influence pour mener à bien une entreprise dans la nécessité de laquelle nous vous serons redevables d'une large part.

No. 580.

Vice-Consul Jago to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 9. Consular.)
My Lord, *Damascus, April* 8, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the copy of a despatch I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary at the Sublime Porte in connection with the disabilities of British subjects in procuring redress in matters of a criminal nature.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 580.

Vice-Consul Jago to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Damascus, April* 8, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Midhat Pasha left here for Beyrout and Tripoli on the 3rd March, and has just returned. Ibrahim Pasha, the Mutessarif of Damascus, was named Acting Governor-General during the absence of his Highness from the capital.

Your Excellency's despatch of the 24th February, relative to the misconduct of Salih Effendi, President of the Court of First Instance of Damascus, and of others, in abusing their judicial powers to the prejudice of Mr. Rattray, an English gentleman residing at Melallaka, as reported by me, was received after his Highness had left Damascus, and action upon it had consequently to be deferred until his return.

I should mention that, just prior to his departure, he told me twice that, owing to the incapacity of Salih Effendi, he would be dismissed. On the 13th March his Highness telegraphed from Tripoli to announce his dismissal and the appointment in his place of a certain Simdredin Effendi of Constantinople, allowing him, however, to retire at once or keep office until the latter's arrival. Salih Effendi chose to keep his post, his successor never arrived, and every criminal case before him in which a British subject was plaintiff was treated by him as has ever been the case during the last three years, namely, refusal of justice and permitting the culprits to escape.

The cases referred to his Court were:—1. Attempt to murder; 2. Burglary; 3. Wounding; 4. Assault.

I represented matters to Ibrahim Pasha, who, as I expected, was powerless to do aught than reprove. No other result followed.

Finding myself thus utterly defenceless, I telegraphed to your Excellency on the 4th instant, in cypher, as follows:—

"Referring to my despatch No. 7, I regret to report utter impossibility to obtain slightest redress from Criminal Court here in any case, owing to anarchy and corruption. Authorities seem helpless. Salih still remains President, despite Governor-General's promises."

To-day I called on his Highness and showed him your despatch anent Mr. Rattray. He said that Salih Effendi had been dismissed, and that his successor would, he hoped, shortly arrive and replace him in his duties.

With reference to "the extended powers recently accorded by the Sultan," alluded to by your Excellency in your despatch, he vehemently stated that such powers were worthless, and gave him really none whatever; still less power to control judicial abuses, as appointments such as those of Salih Effendi were made by the Minister of Justice; that he was utterly helpless in this and other things owing to the system of centralization prevailing at Constantinople, and which he stated had been much increased a year ago; that the only powers he received were those of appointing Mutessarifs; and that, as regards finances, the amount of the revenue assigned him gave him no margin to pay the civil employés, to say nothing of the heavy demands made upon an empty Treasury by Constantinople for Lebnan financial deficit and other things. He particularly requested me to inform your Excellency that his powers were simply nothing.

I then brought to his notice the treatment by the Criminal Court of British complaints during his absence, and was again met with the same asseverations of helplessness, and full and entire acquiescence, and even more, in the truth of the strong picture which I drew of the present state of things. I told his Highness that so con-

vinced was I of the helplessness of the authorities that I had telegraphed to your Excellency on the subject, and I quoted the words of my despatch, upon which he asked me whether I had not reported to Her Majesty's Embassy what he had previously told me of the unsatisfactory nature of his new powers, which I had done.

I could not refrain, however, from pointing out, of my own experience, to his Highness the exceptional advantages as regards protection and justice possessed by foreign residents and others at Beyrout and in Palestine under the rule of simple Mutessarifs, with powers far less than he held, and with equally corrupt Tribunals even by their own statements.

I said that during eight years' residence at Beyrout I could not remember a police case where a foreigner was complainant, and that too at a sea-port, and with a population far more turbulent than that of Damascus. The result was the permanent attraction to Beyrout of the wealth and intelligence of the land and of foreign commerce, to the decadence of the capital and other towns of Syria.

That as regards Jerusalem, and Palestine in general, I had lately found a Mutessarif with a ragged and unpaid militia, and a handful of police, able to protect most efficaciously and to give immediate redress to the few complaints of a large and ever-growing foreign population. His Highness seeking to account for this by the presence of able and liberal-minded Mutessarifs and Cadis, I ventured to state that such had not always been the case, but I did not tell him that the true secret was the instant deference shown, in their own interests, by the local authorities, to the representations of the Consular body, owing to the knowledge possessed by them that the slightest injustice and shortcoming would call forth instant and efficacious remonstrance.

While sympathizing, however, with his Highness in his difficulties, I told him that, as British Consular Agent in Damascus, I must ask him, as head of the Government, whether I must still continue to seek redress from the Criminal Court, whether I was to abandon altogether the four cases in hand, and to refer all matters to Constantinople.

His Highness then requested me to send him a list of the cases, and gave me to believe that he would look into them.

It will be my care to acquaint your Excellency of the measures which he may think fit to adopt to secure justice in his present position, and the success thereof.

I may state that few cases in Damascus are decided on their merits, redress depending chiefly upon the pressure brought to bear upon the members of the Court to counteract those influences ever at work to secure acquittal or evasion.

Prior to the late war, Consular prestige in Damascus, aided, I must say, by the moral pressure which the head of the Government thought proper to apply, was sufficiently strong to obtain satisfaction for the few foreign subjects, the majority of whom are British. During the war, the anarchy which ensued and the constant change of the Governors-General caused foreign influence to yield before the tide of judicial corruption which set in, and which, despite Midhat Pasha's presence, would seem to be still all powerful.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 581.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 23.)

(No. 158.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 10, 1879.

AT our meeting yesterday the Turkish Commissioners brought forward their amendments for the points left open.

In the Chapter "Cultes" they proposed to extend to all religious communities the privilege given to the Bulgarian Church alone of receiving the Berat either from the Sultan or from the Governor-General.

This amendment was accepted.

In the Chapters on finance the Porte wished for the suppression of the stipulation that, at the end of ten years, the Powers should be consulted as to the augmentation to be given to the Porte. The Ottoman Government desired that this question should be settled between the Central and the Provincial Governments alone.

This proposal was also passed.

The Turks had at first proposed to increase the 30 per cent. of the revenue granted

to the Porte to 35 per cent.; but as this proposal met with great opposition from Prince Tzeretelew, who declared that, if accepted, it would be necessary to open several other questions already closed, the Turks withdrew it. As their written instructions, which I had seen, said nothing of the additional 5 per cent., but accepted the 30 per cent., I do not suppose they ever expected the increase asked for.

There was a considerable change proposed as to the employment of the languages, and with one modification introduced by Prince Tzeretelew, the amendments of the Turkish Commissioners were accepted.

From the inclosed copy of the clauses as amended, your Lordship will perceive that the minorities gain considerably by the change. In the clause as it stood at first the language of a minority was admitted, when such minority formed one-third of the population.

This right is acquired under the new wording by a minority equal to one-half of the largest population. Under the clause as it first stood the Turkish and Greek languages ran the risk in many places of being set aside, even when in considerable numbers. For instance, in a town of 10,000, of which 4,000 were Bulgarians, 3,000 Turks, and 3,000 Greeks, the Turks and the Greeks, being in number less than a third of the whole population, would have been debarred the use of their language in public matters.

As the clause is now framed, both Turkish and Greek will, in such cases, be on the same footing.

The amendment at first proposed by the Turks gave these rights to the languages spoken by one-third of the majority; but on the motion of Prince Tzeretelew, this was altered to one-half, and the proposal amended was adopted by the Turks and moved by them. The discussion will therefore not appear on the Protocol.

These three points disposed of, there remains but one for discussion—that of the Vacouf. The Turkish Commissioners are preparing some modification of the Chapter as it stands, which will be discussed and, I hope, settled, on Tuesday next. The whole Statute will then be complete. It is, I believe, now being translated into Turkish.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 581.

Amended Clauses of the "Statut Organique."

Cultes.—Art. 12.

LES prélats et dignitaires des communautés religieuses non-Musulmanes qui recevaient précédemment leur investiture de la Sublime Porte, la recevront désormais, soit de la Sublime Porte, soit du Gouverneur-Général, qui la leur accordera au nom et par délégation de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Finances.—Art. 5, deuxième Alinéa.

Après cette deuxième période de cinq années, le Gouvernement Central et celui de la province examinent si l'état des finances de la province permet une nouvelle augmentation.

Droit Public.—Art. 20.

Les principales langues du pays, le Turc, le Bulgare, et le Grec, sont employées dans la province par les autorités et par les particuliers dans leurs relations avec les autorités, selon les règles suivantes:—

Les autorités administratives et judiciaires des départements, cantons, et communes, pour les actes, jugements, correspondances, et publications, se servent de la langue de la population qui est en majorité relative dans leurs circonscriptions respectives, à moins qu'il n'y existe une minorité égale pour le moins à la moitié de cette majorité, auquel cas la langue de cette minorité est employé concurremment avec celle de la majorité.

Les autorités administratives et judiciaires centrales et départementales, pour leur correspondance avec les autorités civiles qui leur sont subordonnées, se servent de la

langue usitée par la majorité de la population dans les circonscriptions des dites autorités subordonnées.

Le Turc est la langue officielle des autorités de la Roumélie Orientale pour leurs relations avec la Sublime Porte, et avec les autorités des autres parties de l'Empire.

Les lois destinées à être promulguées dans la province, les arrêts, circulaires, et publications du Gouverneur-Général, ainsi que les arrêts, circulaires, et publications du Secrétaire-Général et des Directeurs-Généraux intéressant toute la province, sont rédigés en langues Turque, Bulgare, et Grecque.

Devant les Tribunaux les particuliers ont le droit de se servir de l'une des trois langues principales à leur choix. Tout arrêt ou jugement doit être officiellement traduit dans celle des trois langues indiquée par la partie intéressée, qui en réclame la traduction.

No. 582.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 23.)

(No. 161.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 10, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the 50th and 55th Protocols.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 582.

Protocole No. 50.—Séance Extraordinaire du $\frac{1}{13}$ Mars, 1879 (20 *Rébi-ul-Ewel*, 1296), *à la Maison de la Commission Européenne, à Philippopoli.*

Présidence de M. le Baron de Ring.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring,
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff,
Le Comte de Donoughmore.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schepelew,
Le Prince Tzerotelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Le Protocole de la dernière séance, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

M. Vernoni propose de voter à la majorité des voix sur toutes les questions appelées par l'ordre du jour.

La Commission adopte.

M. de Coutouly dit qu'il a reçu du Gouverneur-Général] deux communications relatives au voyage de M. Schmidt à Slivno.

Il donne lecture de la première de ces pièces, qui est une lettre du Gouverneur-Général au Rapporteur du Comité des Finances :—

"Monsieur, "*Philippopoli, le* 1er *Mars*, 1879.

"J'ai l'honneur de vous communiquer ci-joint une traduction d'un télégramme que je viens de recevoir de M. Ivanoff, Gouverneur de Slivno.

"Vous y trouverez un récit assez détaillé des incidents regrettables qui semblent vouloir suivre M. Schmidt de ville en ville, dans le courant du voyage qu'il a bien voulu entreprendre pour réviser la nouvelle Administration Financière.

"Les faits qui se produisent sont, hélas! inévitables. La Diète de Tirnovo, et l'émigration du Sandjak d'Andrinople, ne peuvent qu'exciter l'effervescence des esprits dans le pays. Je savais bien que nous devions nous y attendre, et c'est la raison pour laquelle j'avais maintes fois prié M. Schmidt d'entreprendre sa tournée d'inspection il y a de cela deux mois, et non à présent; c'est-à-dire, dans un moment qui ne saurait et ne pourrait être considéré comme calme et comme apte à des voyages, surtout pour des personnes qui ont eu le talent de se rendre aussi peu sympathiques aux Bulgares qu'a réussi à le faire M. Schmidt.

"Je suis loin de l'idée de le lui imputer à crime; je me borne seulement à signaler une fois de plus un fait, sur lequel j'ai eu l'honneur d'attirer déjà plus d'une fois l'attention de MM. vos honorables collègues.

"Ce n'est pas en s'entourant de Bulgares d'une réputation plus que douteuse, et en voyageant accompagné d'un aventurier Polonais, qui a dû émigrer pour échapper à la peine qu'il aurait encourue en Russie, que la nouvelle Direction des Finances peut espérer acquérir une position digne, et inspirer du respect à la population.

"L'Administration Russe fera son devoir. M. Schmidt reste et restera à l'abri de toute attaque personnelle; le Gouverneur, le Vice-Gouverneur, vingt Cosaques et des gendarmes l'accompagnent dans son voyage actuel; de plus, les chefs des détachements militaires cantonnés dans différentes villes sont engagés à disperser, fut-ce même par force armée, tout attroupement du peuple.

"Telles sont les mesures prises par l'Administration; mais, toutefois, si M. Schmidt, dans sa tournée, voulait encore une fois s'écarter des indications qui lui seront données par les autorités civiles et militaires, de même que s'il voulait entreprendre un voyage dans les districts du Gouvernement de Slivno où il n'y a pas de troupes Russes ou de la milice Rouméliote cantonnée, je ne pourrais plus répondre même de sa sécurité personnelle.

"Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) "Arcadi Stolypine."

"Avant de lire la seconde communication que j'ai à vous faire," ajoute M. de Coutouly, "je crois devoir signaler à votre attention un passage de la lettre de M. le Gouverneur-Général :—

"'Ce n'est pas,' écrit son Excellence, 'en s'entourant de Bulgares d'une réputation plus douteuse et en voyageant accompagné d'un secrétaire Polonais . . . . . que la nouvelle Direction peut espérer acquérir une position digne . . . .'

"Je ne sais vraiment pas de quels Bulgares le Gouverneur-Général veut parler. Nous avons pleine confiance dans tous nos employés indigènes, dont la plupart ont été simplement confirmés dans les postes qui leur avaient été confiés par les autorités Russes, et nous avons tout lieu de croire que ceux qui appartiennent à la Direction Générale jouissent auprès de leurs concitoyens de l'excellente réputation qu'ils méritent.

"Je ne vois vraiment pas à quels employés Bulgares son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général peut faire allusion.

"Quant à l'employé Polonais que son Excellence traite d'aventurier, nous pouvons affirmer qu'il ne s'est jamais compromis dans les événements de ce pays.

"On a prétendu, pour le décrier aux yeux des Bulgares, qu'il avait fait partie des bandes organisées par Sinclair dans le Rhodope, mais cela était inexact. Lorsqu'il a été dans le Rhodope, il s'y est rendu uniquement pour distribuer des secours aux pauvres. Je sais qu'il a figuré pendant quelque temps dans les cadres de l'armée Ottomane, mais pas un de nous ne saurait trouver dans ce fait un motif d'exclusion. Du reste, cet employé est le seul parmi le personnel de notre Administration Financière qui parle à la fois le Français, le Bulgare, le Russe, et le Turc. M. Schmidt en a eu besoin comme interprète, et nous sommes aussi satisfaits de lui que des employés Bulgares de la Direction Générale.

"Du reste, vous savez, Messieurs, que les meneurs des manifestations fâcheuses dont notre Directeur-Général des Finances a eu à se plaindre ont partout dit et répété qu'ils n'en voulaient ni à la personne de M. Schmidt, ni à celle des employés, mais qu'ils voulaient uniquement protester contre l'Article du Traité de Berlin qui a donné à la Commission l'administration financière de cette province.

"Ceci dit, permettez-moi de vous lire un télégramme adressé à M. le Gouverneur-Général par M. Ivanoff, Gouverneur de Slivno, et qu'on a bien voulu me communiquer :—

"'*Télégramme No.* 813.—(*Remis à la Station le 27 Février, à* 10 *h.* 50 *m. soir.*)

"'M. Schmidt est arrivé hier à Yamboli. Ce matin à 7 heures, malgré toutes les mesures prises, les habitants de la ville ont entouré son logement, sans toutefois se livrer à aucune voie de fait. A midi, il est parti sous escorte pour Slivno. A la nouvelle de l'arrivée de M. Schmidt, les habitants de Slivno qui venaient d'accompagner son Excellence le Général-en-chef, aujourd'hui parti, se sont rassemblées devant la maison où réside la Régence du Gouvernement. Là-dessus, je suis sorti de la maison, et j'ai personnellement dispersé la foule, en lui rappelant la responsabilité qu'elle pouvait encourir. J'ai spécialement chargé le Vice-Gouverneur et le Préfet de Police d'aller à la rencontre de M. Schmidt, en se faisant accompagner par des gendarmes. J'ai confié au Commandant d'étape de la ville le soin de prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires, afin que l'ordre le plus complet fût maintenu en ville. Puis, je suis parti moi-même à la rencontre de M. Schmidt, afin de veiller personnellement au maintien de l'ordre.

"Cependant, les habitants de la ville, en masse considérable (pas moins de 4,000 hommes), sont sortis sur les routes qui mènent de Slivno à Yamboli, Yéni-Zaghra, Karnabad, et se sont rendus jusqu'à une distance de cinq ou six verstes. A la vue de cette foule, M. Schmidt, qui était escorté par le Vice-Gouverneur, le Préfet de Police, les gendarmes et vingt cosaques, sans atteindre Slivno, est retourné sur ses pas. J'ai chargé le Vice-Gouverneur de le suivre en insistant pour qu'il vienne à Slivno, ce que je considère comme indispensable. J'espère que tout se passera bien; j'ai donné l'ordre de faire arrêter les coupables, afin de les traduire en cour martiale.

"'Le Gouverneur,
(Signé) "'Ivanoff.

"'Pour traduction conforme :
(Signé) "'Nerludoff.'

"Cette dépêche," poursuit M. de Coutouly, "ne me paraît pas tout-à-fait juste. D'abord, il n'y est nullement question des scènes de violence qui ont mis en danger M. Schmidt, son secrétaire, et sa petite escorte. On dirait, à lire le télégramme de M. Ivanoff, que la manifestation est restée absolument pacifique, alors que la foule, vous le savez, a tenté de mettre le feu à la maison dans laquelle se trouvait M. Schmidt à Yamboli, et qu'elle a maltraité le gendarme Bulgare qui accompagnait notre Directeur-Général.

"Ensuite M. Ivanoff dit qu'à la vue de la foule sur la route de Slivno M. Schmidt est aussitôt retourné sur ses pas. Or, la déposition de M. Schmidt prouve que, malgré une charge exécutée par les Cosaques contre la foule, non pas au sabre mais avec la nagaïka, et contre le gré de M. Schmidt, les personnes qui l'accompagnaient en ce moment—entre autres M. le Gouverneur de Slivno—lui conseillèrent de battre en retraite.

"Une fois à Yamboli, il exprima, vous le savez, le désir de revenir sur ses pas, mais il dut y renoncer, parce qu'il lui fut officiellement déclaré qu'on ne pourrait pas répondre du rétablissement de l'ordre.

"Je doit ajouter, du reste, Messieurs, que le Directeur-Général des Finances est prêt à retourner à Slivno. Il m'a chargé de prier la Commission de l'autoriser à entreprendre un nouveau voyage; car il lui semble avec raison que force doit rester à la légalité.

"Depuis que j'ai commencé à parler, j'ai reçu communication d'une nouvelle dépêche adressée par M. Ivanoff à M. le Gouverneur-Général.

"Cette dépêche, dont je viens à l'instant de prendre connaissance, est ainsi conçue :—

("'Traduction.) "'*Slivno, le* 28 *Février,* 4 *h.* 15 *m. de l'après-midi.*

"'M. Schmidt est parti ce matin pour Philippopoli, et n'a pas accepté ma proposition de revenir à Slivno. Je vous envoie par courrier un Rapport détaillé sur l'incident du 27 Février.

(Signé) "'Ivanoff.'

"Vous serez très-aises, Messieurs, d'apprendre que le Directeur-Général peut aller sans danger à Slivno, et je crois que vous ne pourrez pas ne pas l'engager à se mettre en route dès demain matin. Du reste, je trouve dans les lettres qu'on vient de me remettre avec la nouvelle dépêche de M. Ivanoff une note de M. Schmidt, qui m'apprend que son Excellence le Général Stolipine a bien voulu, il y a un instant, proposer au Directeur-Général de l'accompagner en personne à Slivno. J'avais, vous le savez, déclaré avant la séance que, si vous autorisiez M. Schmidt à faire une nouvelle expédition, je désirerais l'accompagner, afin de lui faire voir que les membres de la Commission sont prêts à partager avec lui tous les désagréments de sa tâche souvent si pénible. Maintenant que M. le Gouverneur-Général veut bien accompagner lui-même notre Directeur des Finances à Slivno, M. Schmidt n'est plus guère exposé, ce me semble. Je suis, pour cette raison, prêt à retirer mon offre, à moins que vous ne désiriez me charger d'étudier sur place les causes des récents désordes, pendant que M. Schmidt exercera tranquillement son mandat sous la protection de M. le Gouverneur-Général.

"Avant de terminer je veux encore signaler à votre attention un fait intéressant.

"Nous avons appris qu'à la suite des événements de Haskeui certaines arrestations avaient eu lieu, mais il paraît que les personnes les plus coupables, celles qui se sont portées à des voies de fait, ont trouvé le moyen de s'enfuir et que toutes les personnes arrêtées ont été relâchées.

"J'ai désiré savoir si des mesures quelconques avaient été prises pour châtier les auteurs des désordres et je me suis à cet effet adressé au Général Baron de Hubsch, auquel j'ai écrit ce qui suit :—

"'M. le Gouverneur, "'*Philippopoli, le* 13 *Mars,* 1879.

"'La Commission Européenne a entendu hier la déposition de M. Schmidt sur les déplorables incidents de son voyage à Slivno. Elle doit se réunir aujourd'hui pour examiner à fond cette affaire. Votre Excellence rendrait à la Commission et en même temps à l'autorité civile un service véritable si, pour m'aider à bien établir la vérité des faits, elle avait l'obligeance de me faire savoir aujourd'hui, avant 4 heures, quelles mesures ont été prises contre les personnes arrêtées à Tchirpan en conséquence des fait séditieux dont M. l'Inspecteur des Contributions Indirectes a été victime dans cette ville, et contre les émeutiers qui ont investi Samedi dernier le bureau dans lequel se trouvait M. le Directeur des Finances à Haskeui.

"'Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) "'G. de Coutouly.'

"Voici la réponse que j'ai reçue de son Excellence le Gouverneur de Philippopoli :—

"'M. le Rapporteur, "'*Philippopoli, le* $\frac{1}{13}$ *Mars,* 1879.

"'En réponse à votre office en date du $\frac{1}{13}$ Mars, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire savoir que les individus accusés d'avoir provoqué les troubles de Tchirpan, lors de la tournée de l'Inspecteur des Contributions Indirectes, ont été condamnés à trois semaines de prison.

"'Le district et la ville de Haskeui subissent en ce moment une exécution militaire pour huit jours. Les habitants de la ville doivent loger dans chaque maison cinq soldats, et les habitants des villages doivent fournir la viande, le pain, le vin qui constituent la nourriture des soldats.

"'En prenant les mesures précitées, je me suis conformé aux ordres de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale.

(Signé) "'Baron Hubsch de Grossthal.'

"Tout en remerciant le Général Hubsch des renseignements qu'il nous a donnés, le Comité des Finances," dit en terminant M. de Coutouly, "est d'avis de répondre à M. le Gouverneur que, si les vrais coupables ne sont pas recherchés et punis, la menace de ce qu'on nous présente comme une exécution militaire ne suffira pas pour prévenir de nouveaux désordres."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff désire ajouter quelques observations à ce que vient de dire le Rapporteur du Comité des Finances :—

"En écrivant que M. Schmidt s'est entouré de personnes d'une réputation douteuse le Gouverneur-Général formule," dit-il, "une accusation dont M. de Contouly vient de démontrer le peu de raison d'être. Quant à ce qu'elle dit relativement au peu de popularité dont jouit M. Schmidt, il me semble que Son Excellence n'a pas peu contribué à détruire le prestige de notre Directeur-Général des Finances, à propos des circonstances où celui-ci n'avait fait que son devoir. Je crois, du reste, que pour détruire complétement les accusations qui ont été portées contre lui, il serait bon que M. Schmidt fût entendu et qu'il pût se justifier."

M. de Kallay croit que les accusations formulées contre M. Schmidt sont tellement graves que la Commission ne saurait les passer sous silence. Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie déclare que si ces accusations se vérifient, il désire que M. Schmidt cesse d'être employé de la Commission et qu'un vote de blâme soit émis contre le Comité des Finances, lequel a une grande influence sur la nomination des employés. Mais avant de s'expliquer sur une question aussi grave, il croit absolument nécessaire d'entendre M. Schmidt.

Le Baron de Ring dit que le Gouverneur-Général devant partir et prenant ainsi l'initiative des mesures nécessaires, il serait peut-être bon d'attendre les résultats du voyage projeté.

M. de Kallay répond qu'avant d'avoir entendu M. Schmidt il ne saurait l'autoriser à partir. Un employé de la Commission ne peut, d'après lui, continuer à remplir son mandat, quand il se trouve sous le coup d'accusations aussi graves que celles qui ont été portées contre le Directeur-Général des Finances.

Le Prince Tzeretelew dit que si la Commission veut arriver à une solution quelconque, le voyage de M. Schmidt peut seul aider à ce résultat. Il ne voit pas comment on se rapprocherait du but à atteindre, si l'on soulevait des difficultés en provoquant une enquête sur des questions particulières.

Le Baron de Ring croit que le voyage de M. Schmidt est très-urgent : "Un Article du Traité de Berlin," dit-il, "reste inexécuté. Si le Directeur-Général est disposé à faire ce voyage, il faut qu'il l'entreprenne en compagnie du Gouverneur-Général. Cela ne manquera pas de produire un excellent effet sur l'esprit des populations, qui verront que le mandat de M. Schmidt n'est pas contraire à la volonté de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie.

M. de Kallay reconnaît que le voyage est urgent, mais il ne sait pas s'il peut accepter que M. Schmidt continue à exercer ses fonctions avant d'être entièrement justifié. Si c'est lui réellement qui a provoqué par inadvertance les démonstrations hostiles dont on a parlé, quand bien même le Gouverneur-Général continuerait à lui accorder sa confiance, le Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie croirait devoir lui retirer la sienne.

Le Président, après avoir consulté la Commission, fait prier M. Schmidt de se présenter devant l'Assemblée.

Après quelques minutes, M. Schmidt est introduit.

M. de Kallay lui adresse la parole en ces termes : "Le Gouverneur-Général a écrit au Rapporteur du Comité des Finances une lettre dans laquelle la majorité de la Commission trouve portées contre vous des accusations graves. J'ai déclaré et je déclare que si ces accusations sont vraies, elles ne peuvent rester sans suite. De toute la teneur de la lettre dont je viens de parler, il ressort que, par certains actes vous auriez donné lieu à un grand mécontentement dans le pays. La principale des accusations formulées contre vous par le Gouverneur-Général est ainsi conçue :

"'Ce n'est pas en s'entourant de Bulgares d'une réputation plus que douteuse, et en voyageant accompagné d'un aventurier Polonais, qui a dû émigrer pour échapper la peine qu'il a encourue en Russie, que la nouvelle Direction des Finances peut espérer acquérir une position digne, et inspirer du respect à la population.'

"Si, comme le dit le Général Stolipine, vous aviez par votre conduite inspiré de la méfiance à la population, vous auriez contribué à l'excitation qui règne dans la province.

"Je vous prie de vouloir bien répondre à la question suivante :—'Lorsque vous avez présenté au Comité les employés Bulgares que celui-ci a nommés, aviez-vous entendu dire que la population avait à se plaindre de ces personnes ou que leur conduite était douteuse ?'

M. Schmidt répond : "Les accusations du Gouverneur-Général sont tellement

graves, que je crois devoir vous faire passer en revue tous les employés Bulgares nommés par moi.

"Le principal employé est M. Pavlidoff, engagé sur la recommendation de M. Jean Etienne Guéchoff, et dont le Prince Tzeretelow m'a dit beaucoup de bien.

"Le second, M. Popoff, auteur d'une grammaire Bulgare très-appréciée, a été exilé par le Gouvernement Ottoman à cause de son patriotisme exalté.

"Le troisième, M. Boyadjeff, a fait ses études à l'étranger ; c'est le seul de mes employés qui ait pu faire une tournée sans être molesté par la population.

"Le quatrième, M. Stoëff, qui a été la victime des troubles de Tchirpan, appartient à la meilleure famille d'Eski-Zaghra. Le Gouvernement Russe lui avait offert le poste de Président de Tribunal de cette ville. Il m'a été recommandé par M. Stoïloff que le Prince Dondoukoff a dernièrement fait venir à Sophia, pour lui confier un poste important.

"Le cinquième est M. Stefanoff ; il appartient à une des meilleures familles d'Eski-Zaghra, et il a perdu son père et sa mère pendant les derniers événements.

"Le sixième, M. Tchernozemski, appartient à une des meilleures familles de Philippopoli ; il est très-connu ici, et passe pour un des membres les plus actifs de la Société de Gymnastique.

"M. Karapiroff est le fils d'un membre du Conseil Municipal de Philippopoli.

"M. Zarzow est membre d'une des meilleures familles Bulgares Catholiques de cette ville.

"Tels sont nos employés Bulgares.

"Je crois que tous ont auprès de leurs compatriotes une position au-dessus du soupçon."

M. de Contouly ajoute que tous les autres employés Bulgares de l'Administration Financière ont été nommés par l'autorité Russe ou élus par le peuple, et maintenus à leur poste par la nouvelle Direction.

M. Schmidt dit qu'il priera la Commission, pour sauvegarder l'honneur de ses employés, de demander au Gouverneur-Général quelles personnes il a voulu viser.

M. de Kallay demande au Directeur des Finances s'il n'a jamais entendu des plaintes sur le compte de ses agents.

M. Schmidt répond que jamais on ne s'est plaint ni des antécédents de ses employés, ni de leur conduite présente.

Le Baron de Ring demande si M. Schmidt est content de leur service.

M. Schmidt répond affirmativement.

M. de Kallay demande à M. Schmidt si, pendant ses voyages à Tatar-Bazardjik, à Haskeui, à Yéni-Zaghra, et, dernièrement, encore à Haskeui, Slivno, et Yamboli, quand il a eu occasion de parler avec beaucoup de gens du pays, on ne s'est pas plaint à lui de ses employés.

M. Schmidt dit qu'à Yamboli il a causé avec une vingtaine d'hommes et de femmes, qui lui ont serré la main en lui disant qu'ils ne lui en voulaient pas personnellement, et qu'ils étaient fâchés de lui causer des désagréments à lui et à ses employés, et qu'ils n'en voulaient qu'à la Commission et au Traité de Berlin.

M. de Kallay : "Lorsqu'à plusieurs reprises le Gouverneur-Général vous a conseillé d'entreprendre votre voyage à Slivno, vous a-t-il jamais dit que l'excitation de la population serait accrue par la réunion de l'Assemblée Bulgare à Tirnovo ?"

M. Schmidt répond que le Gouverneur-Général lui a parlé dernièrement de l'Assemblée de Tirnovo, mais tout-à-fait incidemment et sans rien ajouter qui ressemblât à une objection contre son départ.

M. de Kallay : "Je vous prie de me répéter la conversation que vous avez eue avec le Gouverneur-Général, Samedi dernier, au moment où vous l'avez rencontré à la station de Haskeui."

M. Schmidt : "Son Excellence m'a demandé pourquoi, malgré son télégramme, j'étais en route. Je lui ai répondu que la Commission n'avait reçu aucune dépêche, et que je n'avais pas connaissance de son télégramme ; je proposai même de revenir sur mes pas, si son Excellence le désirait. M. Nekludoff, qui était présent, me conseilla de ne pas retourner à Philippopoli, et le Gouverneur-Général me dit aussi de poursuivre mon chemin. J'ajoutai que le Prince Tzeretelow n'avait pas fait d'opposition à mon voyage, mais qu'il m'avait conseillé de ne pas quitter le département de Philippopoli jusqu'au retour de son Excellence. Le Gouverneur-Général me répondit que je pouvais partir Dimanche pour Slivno, mais que je devais entreprendre la révision des comptes en commençant par Slivno, et non par Yamboli comme j'en avais eu l'intention."

M. de Kallay : "Après les réponses que je viens d'entendre, je dois déclarer que

les accusations portées contre notre Directeur-Général ne me semblent nullement fondées, et que si le Gouverneur-Général les a formulées c'est évidemment par suite d'une erreur. Toutefois, avant de conclure, je prierai M. Schmidt de nous dire s'il connaît quoi que ce soit sur le compte de l'agent qui a été qualifié d'aventurier Polonais."

M. Schmidt : "Je dois avant tout protester contre le nom d'aventurier qu'on donne à cet employé. Avant de venir en Turquie il a, je le sais, combattu en Pologne pour la liberté de son pays, mais cela ne peut être un crime aux yeux des Bulgares. Poursuivi, comme tous ceux qui avaient pris part à l'insurrection, il a trouvé moyen de se sauver et de se réfugier en France, où il a passé un certain temps. Depuis, il a pris du service en Turquie, et récemment une association de charité l'a envoyé au Rhodope, pour y distribuer des secours aux pauvres, aux blessés, et aux malades sans distinction de race ni de religion."

M. de Kallay : "Avez-vous entendu des plaintes sur son compte?"

M. Schmidt : "Jusqu'à hier on ne m'avait rien dit contre lui. Je l'ai engagé afin d'avoir un interprète durant mes voyages, parce que mes employés Bulgares déclaraient que, s'ils m'accompagnaient dans mes tournées, ils se trouveraient, comme M. Guéchoff, obligés de donner leur démission."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff : "Pouvez-vous me dire pourquoi M. Guéchoff a donné sa démission?"

M. Schmidt : "Officiellement, il m'a déclaré que c'était pour des raisons personnelles; mais, en particulier, il m'a dit qu'il craignait, après les événements de Yéni-Zaghra, de perdre sa popularité s'il continuait à rester au service de la Commission."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff : "Le Gouverneur-Général ayant déclaré qu'il ne pourrait pas répondre de votre sûreté si vous vous rendiez dans un endroit où il n'y aurait ni troupe Russe ni milice, je vous prie de me dire s'il y avait des corps de troupes dans les localités où vous vous êtes rendu."

M. Schmidt : "Il y avait à Haskeui et à Yamboli de la milice et des troupes Russes."

Sir H. Drummond Wolff : "Le Gouverneur-Général a dit que les troupes avaient l'ordre de se servir au besoin des armes pour disperser la foule."

M. Schmidt : "Le Général Tichmeneff m'a assuré le contraire à Yamboli; il m'a dit qu'il n'avait pas le droit de disperser le peuple par la force armée."

Sir H. Drummond Wolff prie M. Schmidt de répéter la conversation qu'il a eue avec le Général Tichmeneff.

Le Prince Tzeretelew dit qu'il ne comprend pas l'utilité d'entendre pour la seconde fois le récit de cette conversation, M. Schmidt ayant mentionné dans son dernier Rapport tout ce que le Général Tichmeneff l'avait autorisé à répéter.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff : "Du moment que MM. les Commissaires de Russie se refusent à entendre toute votre conversation avec le Général Tichmeneff, je vous prierai, M. Schmidt, de nous dire pourquoi on n'a pas dispersé la foule par la force armée, et ce qui vous a été déclaré officiellement à ce sujet. Ceci est d'autant plus intéressant à savoir que le Général Stolipine, dans sa lettre, dit que des ordres ont été donnés pour qu'on use de la force armée en cas de nécessité."

M. Schmidt : "Le Général Tichmeneff a longtemps causé avec moi; mais, sur l'avis que toutes ses paroles seraient répétées à la Commission, il m'a prié de ne vous faire part que de ce que j'ai déjà rapporté hier."

Sir H. Drummond Wolff prie M. Schmidt de lui dire si à son retour à Philippopoli le Gouverneur-Général a interrogé les gendarmes qui avaient fait le voyage de Yamboli et Slivno.

M. Schmidt répond négativement.

M. de Kallay croit qu'après tout ce qui vient d'être dit il serait inutile de relever les exactitudes contenues dans les télégrammes du Gouverneur de Slivno, qui accusent indirectement M. Schmidt de faiblesse, imputation que M. de Coutouly a réfutée si clairement.

D'après M. de Kallay, il ressort du reste des autres passages de la dépêche de M. le Gouverneur de Slivno que ce fonctionnaire a été bien mal informé.

Le Président dit que les renseignements désirés par quelques-uns de ses collègues ayant été obtenus, il clôt la discussion. Mais trouvant tout-à-fait juste l'observation de M. Schmidt que les employés de la Direction-Générale des Finances tiennent à ne pas voir peser sur eux une accusation collective, il annonce qu'il se charge de demander à son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général les noms des agents visés dans la lettre du 1er Mars. Il demande en outre à la Commission si elle autorise M. Schmidt à repartir pour Slivno.

M. de Braunschweig s'abstient.

M. de Kallay : "J'accepte l'offre aimable que le Gouverneur-Général nous a faite de prendre M. Schmidt avec lui. Espérons que cette fois le Directeur-Général des Finances pourra remplir son mandat sans désagréments."

Sir H. Drummond Wolff exprime également l'avis que M. Schmidt doit partir avec le Gouverneur-Général.

M. Vernoni : "Je ne m'oppose pas au départ de M. Schmidt en compagnie de M. le Gouverneur-Général, mais je me demande encore si ce voyage aura de meilleurs résultats que les précédents. Si M. Schmidt risque de recevoir pendant cette nouvelle inspection le même accueil qu'il a eu dans le passé, je suis d'avis qu'il devrait renoncer à voyager. Du moment que, pendant les cinq mois qui se sont écoulés, la Commission, malgré tout le zèle de M. Schmidt et du Comité des Finances, n'a pas réussi à se saisir vraiment de l'administration financière, il sera bien difficile d'obtenir un pareil résultat pendant le court laps de temps qui nous reste pour terminer nos travaux. Peut-être serait-il sage de ne pas continuer une lutte vaine contre l'hostilité d'une population à laquelle on n'a pas voulu ou su faire comprendre les véritables intentions de la Commission Européenne et la nature du mandat qui nous a été confié."

M. Schmidt dit, que si dans le nouveau voyage qu'il va entreprendre il ne réussit pas à obtenir ce qu'il demande, il se verra dans la nécessité de donner sa démission, car il considère le rôle qu'on cherche à lui faire jouer comme indigne de lui et des membres de l'Assemblée.

M. de Kallay : "J'admets l'urgence du voyage projeté et je désire que M. Schmidt parte demain, mais à la condition qu'il ne recommence pas s'il échoue une fois encore. Si M. Schmidt ne réussit pas, je crois qu'il faudra reprendre la motion que j'ai proposée il y a quelques semaines, ou plutôt encore accepter l'idée exprimée par M. de Ring dans une de nos dernières séances et concernant l'impossibilité d'exécuter l'Article XIX.

Les Commissaires de Russie ayant également accepté le voyage de M. Schmidt, *le Président* constate que le Directeur-Général peut se considérer comme autorisé à partir avec son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général. Il demande en même temps à la Commission si elle est d'avis que M. de Coutouly accompagne M. Schmidt.

M. de Kallay dit qu'il accepte avec reconnaissance la proposition de M. le Commissaire Adjoint de France, d'autant plus qu'il a toujours été, pour sa part, d'avis qu'un membre du Comité des Finances devrait accompagner M. Schmidt dans ses voyages, opinion qui n'a pas toujours été partagée par la Commission.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff n'a rien à objecter à la proposition de M. de Coutouly, mais comme le Gouverneur-Général lui a dit dans le temps que l'insuccès du premier voyage de M. Schmidt à Yéni-Zaghra devait être attribué à la présence de Lord Donoughmore près du Directeur-Général, il croit que M. de Coutouly ferait bien de consulter le Général Stolipine avant de prendre une décision.

Les autres Commissaires acceptent également l'offre de M. de Coutouly.

La séance est levée à 6 heures et demie.

(Signé) RING.
COUTOULY.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
DONOUGHMORE.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) ROZEF.
ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 582.

Protocole No. 55.—Séance Extraordinaire du $\frac{5}{17}$ Mars, 1879 (26 Rébi-ul-Ewel, 1296), à la Maison de la Commission Européenne à Philippopoli.

Présidence de Son Excellence le BARON DE RING.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring,
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff,
Lord Donoughmore.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schepelew,
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pasha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Le Protocole de la dernière séance, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

Invité par M. le Président à rendre compte du voyage qu'il a fait à Slivno avec M. le Directeur des Finances, *M. de Coutouly* prend la parole en ces termes:—

"Avant de commencer le récit de l'expédition que nous avons faite à Slivno, le Directeur-Général des Finances et moi, je tiens à vous rappeler, Messieurs, que M. Schmidt a entrepris ce voyage sur un ordre formel de la Commission. Je tiens à constater en outre que, depuis longtemps, le Chef de l'Administration Civile dans la Roumélie Orientale, son Excellence M. le Général Stolipine, avait engagé avec insistance le Chef de notre Administration Financière à se rendre à Slivno pour inspecter les Caisses, étudier les livres de la comptabilité publique, et s'entretenir avec les principaux fonctionnaires civils et les employés des finances de ce département. M. le Gouverneur-Général espérait, en effet, qu'il suffirait d'un échange verbal d'explications précises pour mettre fin aux regrettables malentendus que M. Schmidt et lui avaient vainement essayé de faire disparaître à force de lettres, de télégrammes, et d'ordres circulaires.

"Deux fois déjà notre Directeur des Finances avait essayé de faire ce que le Général Stolipine lui conseillait, d'accord avec la Commission tout entière, et ces deux tentatives, vous le savez, avaient échoué par suite de manifestations hostiles d'un caractère fâcheux.

"M. Schmidt vous a, la semaine dernière, conté les étranges incidents de la deuxième de ces entreprises. Mais, comme le Général vous avait communiqué une dépêche du Gouverneur de Slivno, affirmant que, si le Directeur des Finances avait persisté, il aurait pu, grâce aux mesures prises par l'autorité pour rétablir l'ordre, pénétrer dans la ville de Slivno, en dépit de la résistance de la population, vous avez décidé à l'unanimité que M. Schmidt devait immédiatement repartir, et cette fois encore vous vous êtes trouvés d'accord avec M. le Général Stolipine. En effet, son Excellence n'a pas hésité un seul instant à déclarer qu'il était nécessaire de vaincre la résistance d'une population évidemment égarée par de perfides conseils, et elle a spontanément offert au Directeur-Général de le conduire à Slivno pour qu'il pût exercer librement, sous sa haute protection, le mandat dont vous l'avez investi en vertu de l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin.

"Pour ce qui me concerne personnellement, comme vous savez que des bruits

absurdes ont couru sur mon compte, je vous prie, Messieurs, de vouloir bien me laisser faire aussi quelques constatations au Protocole.

"Vous vous souvenez qu'avant de connaître les intentions de M. le Général Stolipine, j'avais offert d'accompagner M. Schmidt à Slivno. J'avais pour cela deux raisons: la première était qu'il me paraissait convenable de prouver à notre Directeur des Finances, par des actes, que les membres de la Commission étaient prêts à partager avec lui les désagréments et même les dangers auxquels nous l'avions déjà vu s'exposer de si bonne grâce pour l'accomplissement de son devoir; la seconde, plus intime, était qu'il y avait là une occasion pour moi de faire voir aux propagateurs des bruits ridicules auxquels j'ai fait allusion plus haut, qu'il ne me répugnait aucunement d'être sifflé ou hué en compagnie de M. Schmidt.

"Lorsque la nouvelle nous est parvenue que M. le Gouverneur-Général désirait accompagner le Directeur des Finances, je n'avais plus, il est vrai, de raison de supposer que M. Schmidt pouvait risquer quoique ce soit, mais comme la plupart d'entre vous ont bien voulu m'engager à partir quand même, je n'ai pas cru devoir retirer l'offre que je venais de faire.

"Ceci dit, Messieurs, je vais vous raconter simplement et avec détails, mais sans commentaires, tous les incidents de notre expédition.

"Nous sommes partis Vendredi matin avec M. le Gouverneur-Général et le Colonel Kessiakoff, un officier Bulgare très-distingué, au service de la Russie, qui commande actuellement la milice de la Roumélie Orientale. Le Général Stolipine avait avec lui deux Aides-de-camp, et M. Schmidt s'était fait accompagner par un employé de la Direction des Finances, M. Skzryszovsky, secrétaire interprète, qui parle le Français, le Russe, le Bulgare, et le Turc. L'escorte se composait d'une quinzaine de Cosaques et de quelques gendarmes Russes à cheval.

"Nous sommes arrivés à Yamboli à 8 heures du soir. Le Gouverneur de Slivno, M. Ivanoff; le Natchalnik ou Chef de l'Arrondissement de Yamboli, M. Siversky, Capitaine Russe, et plusieurs autres fonctionnaires civils et militaires nous attendaient à la gare. A l'entrée de la ville, le Général a été reçu par le clergé, les autorités, et les Notables de l'endroit. Un grand nombre de maisons étaient illuminées avec des lanternes Vénitiennes; sur une place, nous avons rencontré une compagnie de la milice, que le Général a passée en revue.

"Nous avons été conduits ensuite dans la maison du Natchalnik, où nous avons passé la nuit. C'est là que M. Schmidt avait été assiégé par la foule au commencement de la semaine.

"Une dizaine d'officiers supérieurs étaient réunis chez le Chef de l'Arrondissement. Parmi ces messieurs se trouvait le Général Tichmeneff, dont le Directeur des Finances vous a parlé en vous racontant les incidents de sa première visite à Yamboli. Je dois vous dire à ce propos qu'un grand nombre d'officiers supérieurs se trouvent en ce moment dans cette ville, par laquelle doit passer la majeure partie de l'armée qui vient d'évacuer le Sandjak d'Andrinople. Le premier soin du Général Stolipine fut de faire subir un long interrogatoire à ceux des officiers présents qui avaient été témoins des scènes de désordre dont M. Schmidt avait failli être victime. Son Excellence causa surtout avec le Général Tichmeneff. Elle a ensuite interrogé le Natchalnik, le Commandant de la Drougine, le Commandant de la place, et les fonctionnaires civils de Yamboli. A quelles conclusions M. le Gouverneur-Général est arrivé à la suite de ces interrogatoires, je ne saurais vous le dire, parce que son Excellence ne m'a fait connaître que quelques menus détails des explications qui lui ont été fournies. Mais je crois pouvoir affirmer que M. le Général Stolipine rend justice aux efforts du Natchalnik pour rétablir l'ordre. Il m'a paru convaincu que, si ce fonctionnaire n'avait pas été gêné par l'intervention un peu irrégulière de certains officiers supérieurs de passage à Yamboli, dont le grade élevé pouvait intimider un simple capitaine, M. Siversky aurait lutté avec plus davantage contre les émeutiers. En outre, je l'ai entendu blâmer ces officiers supérieurs d'avoir entamé avec la foule des discussions politiques, dont le résultat devait être d'exciter les manifestants, au lieu de les calmer.

"Enfin, le Gouverneur-Général m'a fait savoir que des paroles malheureuses avaient été prononcées par divers fonctionnaires. Ainsi, il paraît que le Commandant de la place, en requisitionnant la troupe régulière ou la milice pour rétablir l'ordre, avait dit qu'il s'agissait de défendre le Ministre Turc, et que cette parole, répétée par plusieurs personnes, avait augmenté la colère de la population, à laquelle des agitateurs avaient fait croire que l'objet de la mission de M. Schmidt était d'enlever les fonds de la province, pour les envoyer à Stamboul.

"M. le Gouverneur-Général a pu, du reste, se convaincre, que M. Schmidt avait couru des dangers sérieux.

"La foule était surexcitée à un degré dont M. le Directeur des Finances lui-même ne s'est peut-être pas rendu compte. On y remarquait des femmes de la ville de Yéni-Zaglira, dont les maris ont été tués par les Turcs, et qui semblent avoir été appelées à Yamboli tout exprès pour prendre part à la manifestation contre le représentant de la Commission Européenne.

"Pendant la nuit, M. le Gouverneur de Slivno nous a quittés pour devancer le Général Stolipine à Slivno et prendre des mesures à l'effet d'assurer l'ordre sur la route et dans la ville même.

"Le lendemain matin, M. le Gouverneur-Général a passé en revue la Drougine de Yamboli et les volontaires irréguliers qui forment dans cette ville ce qu'en Roumélie Orientale on est convenu d'appeler une Société de Gymnastique.

"Je crois devoir vous dire ici, Messieurs, que nous avons été très-frappés de la bonne tenue et de l'attitude martiale de la Drougine de Yamboli.

"Nous suivions le Général Stolipine pendant la revue, et nous nous sommes tenus à côté de lui quand la troupe a défilé. L'ordre est resté parfait. M. Schmidt, que la foule connaissait pour l'avoir vu peu de jours auparavant passer au milieu d'elle sous la protection d'une escorte considérable, n'a été l'objet d'aucune manifestation.

"Le défilé terminé, sur un signal donné par un individu dont je ne connais pas la position sociale, la foule a successivement acclamé le Czar, l'armée Russe, et le Gouverneur-Général. Après quoi, le même individu a crié en Bulgare: "Vive la France, dont un représentant se trouve parmi nous!" et ce cri a provoqué une explosion de hourrahs.

"Déjà la veille au soir, du reste, ma présence avait donné lieu à une manifestation analogue de la part d'un des Notables de la ville, auquel j'avais été présenté par M. le Général Stolipine, et qui avait dit, en me donnant une poignée de main: "Vive la France, amie des Bulgares!"

"Comme d'autres manifestations du même genre ont eu lieu le lendemain et le surlendemain à Slivno, ainsi que la rumeur publique vous l'a déjà fait savoir, je vous prie, Messieurs, de vouloir bien me permettre de vous dire quelle est, d'après moi, la cause directe de ces faits, à coup sûr imprévus.

"Le nombre des personnes élevées en France est assez considérable parmi les notables indigènes de cette province, surtout dans le département de Slivno. Ces personnes paraissent avoir une certaine influence sur leurs compatriotes. Or, vous n'ignorez pas que le journal la "Maritza" a publié depuis quelques semaines des articles pleins de flatteries à l'adresse de la France, qui était vivement sollicitée d'intervenir auprès des autres Puissances d'Europe pour obtenir des garanties assurant l'ordre dans la Roumélie Orientale après l'évacuation des troupes Russes.

"Ces articles ont sans doute fait naître parmi les personnes dont je parle, et parmi d'autres Notables, le désir d'augmenter encore l'effet produit par la gazette populaire, en organisant quelques démonstrations qui devaient, dans l'opinion des organisateurs, toucher profondément le cœur de M. le Commissaire de France et de son adjoint . . . .

"Il était environ 10 heures et demie quand nous avons quitté Yamboli, avec notre escorte d'une vingtaine de cavaliers. Sur la route, nous n'avons rien remarqué de particulier, mais à notre arrivée à Slivno nous avons trouvé la ville en fête. La plupart des maisons étaient pavoisées.

"L'arc de triomphe, que les habitants avaient élevé quelques jours auparavant en l'honneur du Général Todleben, lequel avait passé par Slivno en se rendant à Varna, était encore debout. Les autorités civiles et militaires de la ville attendaient le Gouverneur-Général sous cet arc de verdure. Environ 1,500 volontaires de la "Société de Gymnastique" de l'endroit formaient la haie sur le passage de son Excellence, qui les a fait ensuite défiler devant nous. Tous ces hommes étaient armés de fusils Krinka. Ils avaient fort bonne mine et nous avons admiré la perfection relative des manœuvres qu'ils ont exécutées.

"M. le Gouverneur-Général les a vivement complimentés. Quant à la Drougine de la ville et à l'escadron de la milice indigène, ils avaient été conduits hors ville pour être passés en revue par le Général Stolipine sur un véritable champ de manœuvre, mais à une distance telle que son Excellence n'a pas pu les rejoindre.

"Vous me dispenserez, Messieurs, de vous raconter les détails de l'ovation dont le Général a été l'objet à la suite du défilé des volontaires irréguliers, mais je n'ai pas

le droit de vous cacher qu'à deux reprises nous avons entendu sur notre passage le cri de 'Vive la République Française!' poussé en Français par des jeunes gens de la Realschule de Slivno.

"Quand nous sommes arrivés à la maison du Gouverneur Ivanoff, nous n'avions remarqué aucun symptôme quelconque pouvant nous faire craindre une manifestation hostile; nous étions, par conséquent, en droit de croire que M. Schmidt serait à même d'accomplir tranquillement sa mission. Malheureusement, nos illusions ne tardèrent pas à être détruites.

"Vers 3 heures et demie, une foule de femmes, poussées en avant par des hommes qui restaient prudemment en arrière, envahit tout à coup le jardin derrière la maison du Gouverneur. Je me trouvais à ce moment avec M. le Général Stolipine et le Directeur des Finances dans le cabinet de travail de M. Ivanoff. Un officier m'appella pour me montrer ce qui se passait. Les femmes demandaient à grands cris qu'on leur livrât M. Schmidt. Sur les arbres des jardins voisins il y avait un assez grand nombre de jeunes garçons qui s'attendaient évidemment à un spectacle émouvant. J'ai aussi remarqué des hommes postés sur les toits des maisons entourant celle du Gouverneur. Messieurs les officiers qui m'avaient fait appeler me supplièrent de ne pas avertir M. le Général Stolipine, parce qu'ils avaient l'espoir de mettre fin au désordre avant que son Excellence ne s'en aperçût. Déjà M. Ivanoff, le Colonel Kessiakoff, le Vice-Gouverneur, M. Rimski Korsakoff, et plusieurs officiers étaient occupés dans le jardin à chasser les envahisseurs à l'aide de quelques Cosaques. Mais ils ne purent y réussir qu'en frappant les femmes, qui paraissaient furieuses, et dont il fallut emporter quelques-unes en les traînant par terre.

"Pendant que ceci se passait derrière la maison, une foule considérable s'était ameutée de l'autre côté, devant l'entrée principale, en poussant de grands cris et en faisant des efforts pour pénétrer dans la cour. La garde d'honneur, qui était composée de soldats de la Drougine, eut quelque peine à repousser et à maintenir ces émeutiers.

"M. le Gouverneur-Général ne tarda pas à s'apercevoir qu'il se passait quelque chose d'extraordinaire. Il sortit avec ses Aides-de-camp, et il réussit à intimider la foule qui se pressait aux abords de la maison. Cependant, le jardin avait été complétement vidé, et des sentinelles y avaient été placées devant tous les endroits par lesquels on pouvait y pénétrer. Bientôt un nouveau peloton de la Drougine se présenta, et l'on n'entendit plus aucun bruit inquiétant. La foule toutefois n'avait pas abandonné les abords de la maison, et nous avons appris le lendemain matin que, dès ce soir-là, environ 400 ou 500 femmes s'étaient réunies autour du konak, où se trouve la Caisse, pour empêcher M. Schmidt d'y pénétrer. Ces femmes sont restées, jusqu'à la fin de l'émeute, jour et nuit à leur poste, où elles avaient établi tout un bivouac.

"Il était trop tard pour rien entreprendre dans cette soirée, d'autant plus qu'on n'avait, pour disperser la foule, qu'une trentaine d'hommes d'une compagnie d'infanterie Russe, les Cosaques, les gendarmes, et la Drougine, dont on ne connaissait pas encore les excellentes dispositions. Le Général résolut d'attendre jusqu'au lendemain avant de rien décider. Mais il fit appeler le Président de la Société de Gymnastique, et lui dit qu'il comptait sur lui et ses hommes pour maintenir l'ordre dans la ville. 'C'est vous qui me garderez,' lui dit-il; 'je vous prie de m'envoyer une escouade d'une trentaine d'hommes qui fourniront des factionnaires.' Le chef des gymnastes paraissait surpris et très-embarrassé; il balbutia quelques mots signifiant qu'il lui serait bien difficile de surveiller tous ses hommes, parmi lesquels il y avait beaucoup de cerveaux brûlés, mais il finit toutefois par promettre que pas un des membres de la Société ne se rendrait complice des désordres. Il est probable, Messieurs, que l'heureuse idée du Général Stolipine de s'adresser au point d'honneur des gymnastes a beaucoup contribué à empêcher les désordres, dont nous avons été témoins, de dégénérer en scènes de violence absolue.

"Après le dîner, M. Schmidt, sans nous prévenir, M. le Gouverneur-Général et moi, sortit avec M. Dorschprunt Zilitza, Brigadier, Commandant les Drougines de Slivno et des villes voisines.

"Ces deux messieurs firent en ville une promenade assez émouvante, dont M. Schmidt lui-même va, si vous le permettez, vous raconter les incidents."

M. Schmidt, Directeur-Général des Finances, prend la parole en ces termes:

"Dimanche, vers 6 heures et quart du soir, M. le Colonel Dorschprunt Zilitza, Commandant de la brigade de la milice de Slivno, m'invita à faire avec lui une promenade par la ville. Il espérait que la population se tranquilliserait si elle voyait

que je n'étais ni Turc ni Anglais. Nous essayâmes d'abord de traverser la foule qui occupait la rue devant la maison. Le Colonel Kessiakoff, qui se trouvait là, me présenta au peuple, et demanda si l'on croyait encore que j'étais un Turc. Une voix répondit: 'Oui, puisqu'il parle le Turc;' sur quoi le brigadier fit observer à la foule que le Colonel Kessiakoff, comme preque tous les Bulgares, savait aussi le Turc.

"Une autre voix dans la foule reprit alors: 'S'il n'est pas Turc, il est du moins Anglais.'

"M. Kessiakoff donna sa parole d'honneur que je n'étais ni Turc ni Anglais, mais la foule, au lieu de se calmer, devint plus tumultueuse, et le Colonel Zilitza me reconduisit à la maison entre une double haie de soldats, qui empêcha la foule de me suivre.

"Prenant ensuite une petite rue latérale, non occupée par la foule, nous pûmes pénétrer en ville sans être aperçus. Nous nous dirigeâmes vers la caserne de la milice, qui est établie dans une dépendance de la grande fabrique de drap.

"Le Colonel Zilitza demanda aux quelques individus que nous rencontrâmes dans les rues s'ils avaient déjà vu M. Schmidt. Sur leur réponse négative, il leur dit: 'Eh bien, le voici.'

"On refusa d'abord de le croire. Lorsque je répétai son assertion, et lorsque je demandai pourquoi on faisait une démonstration contre moi, on me dit que l'on ne voulait pas le retour des Turcs; on me raconta les malheurs arrivés aux habitants de Slivno pendant les derniers temps du régime passé, et on me demanda où j'étais à cette époque, et pourquoi je n'étais pas venu alors dans le pays. Cette même question étrange m'a été faite chaque fois que je me suis présenté à la foule.

Après avoir visité la caserne, nous allâmes chez le Procureur, un officier Russe, qui lui aussi refusa d'abord de croire à mon identité. Il me dit qu'après avoir entendu tout ce que la foule contait sur moi, il s'attendait à voir un véritable monstre. Cet officier nous accompagna ensuite pour me présenter à quelques Notables Bulgares.

Nous rencontrâmes sur la route plusieurs individus auquels le Colonel me présenta, et nous entrâmes dans la maison du Président de la Cour d'Appel, que j'avais déjà vu parmi la députation qui était venue saluer le Gouverneur-Général.

"La nouvelle de ma présence chez le Président de la Cour d'Appel se répandit vite, et le nombre des personnes qui stationnaient devant la maison de ce Magistrat augmenta rapidement. On demandait à me voir, et le Colonel fit entrer une députation de trois personnes avec lesquelles je causai quelque temps.

"Cette députation me dit que l'on devait me donner une lettre, exprimant les vœux de la population. Après avoir vainement attendu cette lettre pendant un quart d'heure, le Colonel me pria de partir parce qu'il craignait que la foule, qui augmentait toujours devant la maison, ne devint tumultueuse. Nous quittâmes la maison, et le Colonel pria la foule de ne pas nous suivre. On ne tint pas compte de cette prière. Dans les rues étroites où nous nous engageâmes, le Procureur, assisté d'un soldat qui était avec le Colonel Zilitza, essaya plusieurs fois de retenir la foule en la haranguant pour nous assurer un libre passage. Mais chaque fois la foule se jetait en avant en criant hourrah. De moment en moment elle devenait plus excitée; quelques individus frappaient aux portes des maisons pour appeler les habitants à ma poursuite.

"Le Colonel finit par s'inquiéter, et comme nous arrivâmes bientôt devant le bureau du 4ème Corps d'Armée, où il y avait un poste Russe, il m'y fit entrer et garder la porte par les soldats armés. Il tâchait de calmer la foule et lui disait qu'il enverrait chercher une compagnie de soldats, si on ne promettait pas de me laisser retourner tranquillement à la maison du Gouverneur.

"On promit alors au Colonel de ne pas empêcher notre retour; et en effet la foule qui nous accompagnait se tint tranquille.

"Dès que nous approchâmes de la maison du Gouverneur, l'inquiétude du Colonel disparut, et nous nous arrêtâmes pour causer avec les hommes qui nous suivaient. Ces hommes répétaient toujours les mêmes plaintes contre les abus et les cruautés commis par les derniers fonctionnaires Ottomans. Ils m'assurèrent en outre qu'ils ne m'en voulaient pas, à moi, et que je n'avais rien à craindre pour ma personne, mais qu'ils voulaient protester contre ce qu'ils considéraient comme le premier pas fait pour rétablir ici l'autorité des Pachas.

"Il était 9 heures et demie quand je rentrai chez M. le Gouverneur."

M. de Contouly reprend la parole comme suit:—

"Quelques instants après la rentrée de M. Schmidt, M. le Colonel Kessiakoff nous conduisit avec une escorte de quelques gendarmes dans la maison du Dr. Mircovitch, où des lits étaient préparés pour nous, et qui était gardée par un peloton de fantassins de la Drougine Bulgare et deux cavaliers.

"Le lendemain matin, Dimanche, nous nous aperçûmes, vers 9 heures et demie, qu'une foule considérable s'était amassée autour de la maison.

"Tous les arbres du voisinage étaient chargés de jeunes garçons, qui attendaient les événements. A 10 heures moins un quart, la foule essaya de forcer l'entrée de la cour. La sentinelle fut culbutée, et quelques hommes réussirent à passer la porte. Aussitôt, les miliciens coururent à leurs fusils, qui étaient groupés en faisceaux, et ils se jetèrent sur les envahisseurs qu'ils repoussèrent à grands coups de crosse. Puis, ils prirent position dans la rue devant la porte, mais ils furent bientôt assaillis par une grêle de pierres. Deux de ces braves garçons furent blessés au visage, et forcés de rentrer pour se faire soigner par le docteur. D'autres furent violemment frappés sur la poitrine, à la nuque, &c. Mais pas un ne perdit la tête, ni ne fit usage de la baïonnette. Je ne sais pas s'il y avait plusieurs fusils dans la foule; pour ma part, je n'en ai vu qu'un seul entre les mains d'un homme à moustache grise, qui coucha en joue un de nos jeunes défenseurs, mais qui fut aussitôt désarmé par des gens se trouvant à côté de lui. Sur l'ordre de l'officier commandant le peloton, les miliciens chargèrent leurs fusils, et cela suffit pour mettre la foule en fuite. Quelques instants plus tard, une compagnie tout entière de la Drougine arrivait à la rescousse, et occupait les abords de la maison. Elle avait été envoyée par le Colonel Kessiakoff, lequel ne tarda pas à se présenter chez nous avec le Vice-Gouverneur et le brigadier Zilitza.

"Ces messieurs haranguèrent la foule, et le Colonel Kessiakoff me pria de sortir avec lui. 'Puisque le peuple de Slivno,' me dit-il, 's'est tout à coup pris d'affection pour le Délégué Français, profitez-en pour lui parler et le rassurer sur le compte de M. Schmidt.' Aussitôt que le Colonel m'eût présenté à la foule, maintenue à une certaine distance de la maison par une double haie de miliciens, je fus salué par une explosion de hourrahs et de cris: 'Vive la France!' Quelques jeunes gens criaient en Français: 'Vive la République Française!' On me pria de dire quelques mots. Entouré comme je l'étais par une masse d'hommes, qui se pressaient autour de nous, je ne pus pas me dispenser de parler. Je leur dis que je les remerciais des marques de sympathie qu'ils voulaient bien me donner, et j'ajoutai qu'ils ne se trompaient pas en supposant que M. le Commissaire de France, dont j'étais l'adjoint, écrivait au Gouvernement de la République dans un sens favorable à la population de ce pays; mais je m'empressai d'ajouter que nous ne pouvions pas faire autre chose. Comme le Colonel Kessiakoff, qui ne comprend pas parfaitement le Français, avait, à ce que me dit notre interprète, M. Skrzyszowsky, donné une couleur un peu trop accentuée à la traduction de mon petit discours très-réservé, je priai d'abord M. Skrzyszowsky, puis un jeune homme du pays qui m'avait adressé la parole en Français, de traduire littéralement ce que j'avais dit, afin qu'on ne pût pas m'accuser de tromper la foule et de flatter ses passions.

"Après quoi, je m'efforçai d'ajouter quelques mots pour expliquer ma situation vis-à-vis de M. Schmidt, fonctionnaire au service d'une Commission dont je faisais partie; mais il me fut impossible de me faire entendre au milieu des hourrahs.

"Peu de temps après cet incident, M. le Vice-Gouverneur me proposa de nous rendre avec lui dans la maison du Gouverneur, où nous rencontrerions le Général Stolipine qui était allé à l'église. Il se chargea d'ouvrir la marche en écartant la foule sur notre passage avec l'aide d'un ou deux gendarmes. M. Schmidt marchait derrière lui au bras du Colonel Kessiakoff, lequel lui avait conseillé d'accrocher à sa boutonnière la Croix de Fer Prussienne, afin de prouver à la foule qu'il n'était pas Musulman. Pour moi, je suivais ces messieurs, entouré d'un ou deux officiers qui avaient désiré venir avec nous.

"La compagnie de la Drougine, qui avait fait la haie devant la maison, fut obligée de nous escorter pour tenir la foule à distance. Tout ce qu'il y avait d'hommes, de femmes, et d'enfants dans les environs de la maison du Docteur Mircovitch, courait à côté de nous en poussant des cris; mais pas une pierre ne fut lancée pendant notre marche. Au moment où nous nous sommes engagés dans une rue étroite aboutissant en face de la maison du Gouverneur, le Colonel crut devoir donner l'ordre aux miliciens d'empêcher la foule d'y pénétrer avec nous. Cet ordre fut exécuté avec beaucoup de vigueur, à coups de crosse. Devant le portail même de la cour au fond de laquelle se trouve la maison vers laquelle nous nous dirigions, une autre scène assez vive eut lieu.

La foule ayant essayé d'enfoncer la double haie de miliciens qui barrait une petite rue transversale, il fallut la charger. Le Vice-Gouverneur, le Colonel Kessiakoff, les Cosaques, et quelques hommes de la Drouginc, s'y employèrent sous une grêle de pierres, dont elle atteignit à la tête un officier de la milice. Pendant que ceci se passait sur notre droite, la haie de miliciens à notre gauche tenait bon contre la foule, qui apostrophait les soldats et leur adressait de vifs reproches. J'ai vu un jeune homme entr'ouvrir sa veste et sa chemise, et présenter sa poitrine nue à un soldat, en invitant celui-ci à le frapper avec sa baïonnette. Les miliciens ne discutaient pas; ils se contentaient de repousser les assaillants avec les crosses de leurs fusils. Pendant ce temps, un peloton présentait les armes dans la cour. Tous ces miliciens avaient l'air de vieux soldats, et je crois utile de vous déclarer à ce propos, Messieurs, que nous avons beaucoup admiré, M. Schmidt et moi, pendant tout notre séjour à Slivno, l'excellente tenue de cette jeune troupe Bulgare, à laquelle ses officiers et ses sous-officiers Russes ont réussi à donner en si peu temps une éducation militaire vraiment bien surprenante.

"Dès que le Général Stolipine fut rentré, je racontai en détail les scènes dont nous avions été les témoins. Il me dit qu'en dépit de leurs efforts, les Notables de la ville et les officiers Russes ne réussiraient probablement pas à faire entendre raison à la foule; que les femmes qui assiégeaient le konak paraissaient résolues à empêcher, coûte que coûte, le Directeur des Finances de pénétrer dans le bureau de l'Administration Financière; que la sentinelle gardant la Caisse était emprisonnée par la foule dans le bureau même, où les femmes lui apportaient à boire et à manger; enfin que, pour émouvoir les soldats dans le cas où on voudrait employer la force, les meneurs de l'émeute avaient eu soin de réunir autour du konak un nombre assez considérable de femmes enceintes que l'on se proposait de placer au premier rang lorsque la bagarre commencerait.

"Le Général Stolipine me déclara formellement qu'il était résolu à faire respecter l'autorité, à dégager le konak, et à prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires pour que M. Schmidt pût exécuter son mandat, mais qu'il préférait patienter, afin de laisser à la foule le temps de se lasser, et aux Notables de l'endroit celui de la calmer, et de lui faire comprendre combien la manifestation organisée par des agitateurs imprudents était insensée et préjudiciable aux intérêts mêmes de la population Bulgare. Il ajouta que, s'il voulait employer les armes, il lui suffirait d'une demi-heure pour rétablir l'ordre, mais qu'il avait l'espoir de le faire sans effusion de sang, et qu'il avait d'ailleurs envoyé par le télégraphe l'ordre à un bataillon d'arriver à Slivno. 'Plus nous aurons de troupes,' me dit-il, en terminant, 'plus nous aurons de chances de disperser la foule sans causer d'irréparables malheurs.'

"M. le Gouverneur-Général répéta cette déclaration plusieurs fois dans les deux jours qui suivirent, et j'ai à peine besoin de vous dire que nous avons toujours, M. Schmidt et moi, cru devoir répondre à son Excellence, en notre nom personnel, comme en votre nom, Messieurs, que nous approuvions sa prudence et sa modération.

"Le Métropolitain de Slivno, M. Séraphin, vint ce jour-là saluer M. le Général Stolipine, qui me fit l'honneur de me présenter à son Eminence. Quelque temps après cette visite, le Gouverneur-Général sortit pour circuler dans la foule et tâcher de la calmer. Il revint avec deux pétitions, dont l'une était adressée à M. Schmidt, l'autre à moi, et qui lui avaient été présentées avec prière de nous les transmettre.

"Voici la traduction de ces documents:

"'*Pétition adressée à M. le Directeur-Général des Finances.*

"'Très-honoré M. Schmidt,

"'Nous vous adressons d'abord nos saluts comme hôte de notre ville et nous prenons en même temps la liberté de vous expliquer le but de la démonstration que vous voyez, depuis hier, se faire devant vous. Elle n'est pas dirigée contre votre personne, mais contre la volonté de l'Europe, qui s'est plue, au Congrès de Berlin, à partager notre pays en plusieurs morceaux, et qui nous laisse ainsi sous l'ancien régime du Gouvernement Ottoman. Nous sommes profondément convaincus que cette volonté, avec les conséquences qu'elle aurait pour nous, serait funeste à notre liberté et à notre bien-être futur. Pour cette raison, nous ne pouvons pas nous soumettre à cette volonté et nous avons dès le commencement protesté contre la décision du Congrès de Berlin.

"'Mais l'Europe, sans faire attention à notre faible voix, envoya à Plovdiv la Commission qui aujourd'hui encore y siége, pour élaborer le Statut destiné à régler l'administration de ce pays.

"'Au nom de toutes les villes, nous protestons encore une fois, et nous déclarons que nous ne reconnaissons pas la Commission Européenne, et que nous ferons tous nos efforts pour conserver cette liberté, que sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan Hamid lui-même a sanctionnée par sa signature du 19 Février, 1878.

"'Comme nous ne reconnaissons pas la Commission Européenne, il nous est aussi impossible de vous reconnaître, et de confier nos comptes et nos finances à vous, fonctionnaire désigné par cette Commission Européenne.

"'Enfin, notre unique espoir est que l'Europe prendra en considération nos vœux: si non, qu'elle envoie ses armées, pour terminer dans un instant nos souffrances, au lieu de les prolonger pour des siècles.'

("'La population de Slivno et de son arrondissement.')

"'*Slivno, le 4 Mars*, 1879.

"'*Pétition adressée à M. de Coutouly.*

"'Monsieur,

"'La population de Slivno est heureuse de voir parmi elle un des Délégués et Représentants de la Puissance Européenne qui a été la première protectrice de la liberté et du progrès de notre nation.

"'Nous profitons de cette heureuse occasion pour vous présenter une humble supplique où nous vous exprimons les désirs de la population qui se trouve actuellement, ainsi que vous le savez, dans une situation pénible, sans même parler de ses craintes pour l'avenir.

"'Nous vous prions, vous qui savez apprécier la liberté et le progrès vers lesquels aspire tout le peuple Bulgare, de vouloir bien intercéder en notre faveur auprès de votre pays, libéral et civilisateur. La France, nous en sommes convaincus, ne refusera pas de prendre en considération nos légitimes aspirations, et de plaider notre cause auprès des autres Cabinets Européens, qui veulent si impitoyablement nous séparer pour toujours de nos frères d'au delà des Balkans.

"'Si l'Europe continue à vouloir nous séparer de la Principauté Bulgare, nous nous déclarons, dès maintenant, prêts à sacrifier jusqu'à la dernière goutte de notre sang pour obtenir notre unité nationale.

"'Dans la confiance que vous voudrez bien prendre en considération nos légitimes désirs, nous sommes, &c.

"'Vive la République Française et le peuple Français!

("'La population de l'Arrondissement de Slivno.)

"'*Slivno, le* $\frac{4}{16}$ *Mars*, 1879.'

"Au sujet de la prétendue pétition à M. Schmidt, il est de mon devoir, Messieurs, de vous apprendre que les Notables de Slivno, avec lesquels j'ai eu l'honneur de causer, ont blâmé dans les termes les plus sévères le style de ce factum étrange, et m'ont prié de ne tenir aucun compte d'une pièce qui, d'après eux, n'exprimait pas les véritables sentiments de quiconque parmi leurs compatriotes est capable de concevoir une idée politique. Plusieurs de ces Messieurs m'ont dit et répété que ce morceau avait été rédigé par des fanatiques, ennemis inconscients de leur propre cause. Ils ont ajouté, avec une sincérité dont je ne puis aucunement douter, que, pour leur part, s'ils avaient les moyens de s'adresser aux représentants des Puissances, ils ne commettraient pas la folie de déclarer qu'ils ne veulent pas se soumettre à la volonté de l'Europe, mais qu'ils se contenteraient de leur demander des garanties contre le retour du régime de terreur dont ils ont si cruellement souffert . . . ."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff interrompait M. de Coutouly, lui demande si les agitateurs auxquels ces Notables faisaient allusion sont étrangers ou indigènes.

M. de Coutouly répond comme suit:—

"Je présume que, dans les conversations spéciales dont je vous donne en ce moment le sens il n'était question que d'agitateurs indigènes. Tous les patriotes Bulgares sont jusqu'à un certain point responsables des manifestations qui se sont produites contre le mandat conféré à la Commission Européenne, parce qu'ils avaient tous le même idéal et qu'ils se sont tous amèrement plaints lorsqu'ils se sont vus forcés de renoncer à la prompte réalisation de cet idéal. Mais, si les patriotes indigènes, même les plus modérés, ont une certaine part de responsabilité dans les événements dont j'ai l'honneur

de vous rendre compte, la part la plus lourde me paraît appartenir à un certain nombre de meneurs que je ne puis absolument pas considérer comme les véritables guides et chefs naturels de la population Bulgare. Il me paraît certain que la manifestation dont j'ai été témoin avait été préparée il y a déjà longtemps, dès qu'il avait été question d'un voyage de M. le Directeur des Finances dans le département de Slivno. On avait résolu de profiter de l'occasion pour organiser une grande protestation populaire contre l'instrument qui a scindé la Grande Bulgarie du Traité de San Stéfano. Cela m'a été révélé par une quantité d'indices dont j'ai pris note en passant. Mais, comme on savait que la masse populaire ne peut jamais se laisser entraîner à de grandes colères contre des combinaisons politiques et des conceptions quelque peu abstraites, et qu'il faut toujours lui présenter un bouc émissaire pour qu'elle manifeste ses passions avec vigueur, on avait eu soin de répandre sur le compte de M. Schmidt les bruits les plus faux et les plus absurdes. C'est ainsi qu'on avait fini par faire croire à la foule que notre Directeur des Finances, dont on avait Turquisé le nom, passez-moi l'expression, s'appelait en réalité Ismid, et avait, en qualité de haut fonctionnaire du Sultan, persécuté les Bulgares à Smyrne! . . .

"On était même allé jusqu'à dire que le nommé Ismid était en grande partie responsable des horribles massacres qui ont mis en deuil la moitié de la population de Slivno. C'est par ces inventions que, profitant de la haine et de la soif de vengeance qui animent les cœurs des habitants de ce pays, on avait obtenu le concours emporté de la masse pour une manifestation évidemment dirigée par ses instigateurs, non contre la personne de M. Schmidt, mais contre le Traité de Berlin et la Commission Européenne.

"Une fois les troubles commencés, quand les inventeurs de toutes ces calomnies intéressées ont compris que la population crédule avait été lancée par eux dans une voie dangereuse pour tout le monde, et même pour la cause Bulgare, quand ils se sont aperçus que son Excellence, M. le Gouverneur-Général, allait être forcé par le sentiment de l'honneur personnel et de son devoir vis-à-vis de Sa Majesté l'Empereur Alexandre, Signataire du Traité de Berlin, à rétablir l'ordre coûte que coûte, ils ont, bien entendu, fait tout ce qui leur paraissait possible, avec le concours des patriotes plus modérés, pour retenir la masse et empêcher un conflit, dont les conséquences pouvaient être horriblement dramatiques. Mais il était trop tard, et il est arrivé ce qui arrive toujours en pareil cas. Les meneurs ne pouvaient plus arrêter la foule imprudemment excitée, et je sais positivement que plusieurs d'entre eux ont été maltraités par la populace ou tout au moins injuriés.

"Je dois ajouter, du reste, pour tout dire, qu'une part de la responsabilité des événements doit peser aussi, d'après moi, sur les autorités civiles du département qui ont négligé, dès les débuts de notre administration financière, de faire connaître à la population le véritable caractère de M. Schmidt et la nature du mandat confié à la Commission Européenne par l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin, alors qu'en réponse à une lettre adressée en votre nom à son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général au mois de Novembre 1878, M. le Général Stolipine vous a fait savoir qu'il avait enjoint à ses représentants de communiquer à tous les fonctionnaires, ainsi qu'aux contribuables, des renseignements d'une précision absolue.

"Enfin, il est hors de doute pour moi que la plupart des officiers Russes ont souvent tenu, apparemment sans préméditation, devant les habitants de ce pays, un langage qui devait enflammer les passions et troubler le jugement d'une population, déjà fort agitée.

"Ceci dit, permettez-moi, Messieurs, de reprendre mon récit où je l'ai laissé.

"Après nous avoir remis les deux pétitions que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous lire, M. le Général Stolipine voulut bien m'encourager à faire une visite à Monseigneur le Métropolitain, en compagnie de deux ou trois Notables de Slivno qui étaient venus me chercher pour une promenade en ville.

"Je me suis aussitôt mis en route, et dès que la foule m'a reconnu, les cris de "Vive la France" ont recommencé.

"Je dois vous dire toutefois que, dans cette occasion, j'ai été un peu chagriné de voir M. le Vice-Gouverneur, qui avait l'obligeance de m'accompagner, donner en quelque sorte à la foule le signal des hourrahs. Il m'a paru convenable de prier M. le Vice-Gouverneur de vouloir bien me ménager un peu plus, et j'ai en outre demandé à Messieurs les Notables d'empêcher la foule de me suivre.

"Au sortir de la maison de Mgr. Séraphim, mes guides m'ont conduit devant le conak, où une véritable manifestation en l'honneur de la France avait été organisée. Les infants des écoles, rangés sur mon passage, m'ont reçu aux cris de: 'Vive la

République Française!' On m'a jeté des bouquets de verdure, et un jeune homme qui m'a tenu un petit discours en Français, m'a remis un exemplaire de la pétition dont je vous ai fait connaître le texte.

"Quant aux vieilles femmes qui s'étaient constituées les gardiennes du conak, elle m'ont entouré pour me raconter leurs griefs. L'une d'elles m'a dit que les Turcs avaient tué son mari et ses fils, et elle a ajouté en sanglotant.

"Après cela, comment serait-il possible que je permisse à Ismid d'entrer dans le conak et de prendre l'argent Bulgare pour le donner au Sultan? . . .

"J'ai su depuis qu'avant d'organiser cette manifestation, deux ou trois notables avaient sollicité l'autorisation de M. le Gouverneur-Général, lequel n'avait pas cru devoir la refuser.

"Nous nous attendions à voir arriver ce jour-là au moins un bataillon. Malheureusement, deux compagnies se sont seules présentées, et faute d'un nombre d'hommes suffisant, on dut renoncer provisoirement au projet qu'on avait fait de dégager les abords du conak à l'aide d'une manœuvre imaginée pour balayer la foule par la masse seule des soldats en marche, sans avoir besoin de se servir des armes. Détail curieux: les émeutiers, qui semblaient avoir deviné le plan du Général, s'émurent en voyant arriver les deux compagnies dont je viens de parler, et ils firent sonner le tocsin sur deux ou trois points de la ville. Le Général n'eut toutefois pas trop de peine à faire cesser cette démonstration inquiétante.

"Cette nuit-là, il ne fut pas permis à M. Schmidt de retourner chez M. le Docteur Mircovich, lequel avait reçu divers avis lui annonçant que, si le Directeur des Finances couchait sous son toit, il arriverait malheur à sa maison.

"Le lendemain, Lundi, la foule était encore plus nombreuse dans les rues que la veille, parce que c'était jour de bazar.

"Comme les boutiques sont restées fermées toute la journée, les paysans des villages voisins grossissaient les groupes séditieux.

"Dans la matinée, le Général Stolipine m'annonça que deux régiments arriveraient le lendemain, et qu'il attendrait ces régiments pour exécuter les manœuvres projetées, à moins que les Notables et les autorités ne pussent auparavant réussir à disperser la foule et à dégager ainsi le conak. 'On veut,' me dit-il, 'avoir des martyrs, mais je ne donnerai pas à messieurs les agitateurs la satisfaction de leur en fournir.'

"Il fit savoir aux Notables que, s'ils ne rétablissaient pas l'ordre en se servant de l'influence qu'ils devaient avoir sur le peuple, ils seraient frappés d'une amende considérable.

"Vers 11 heures, la plupart des autorités locales et des hommes influents de la ville secondés par M. le Gouverneur Ivanoff, M. le Vice-Gouverneur Rimski Korsakoff, et le Colonel Kessiakoff, se répandirent parmi la foule ameutée, et ils réussirent à en entraîner la plus grande partie dans l'église, où elle fut haranguée, par le Métropolitain d'abord, puis par M. le Colonel Kessiakoff, dont la popularité paraît bien établie.

"Les discours de ces deux orateurs paraissent avoir fait une vive impression sur le public, car le plupart des hommes prirent le parti de rentrer chez eux après les avoir entendus.

"Toutefois les boutiques ne furent pas ouvertes, et malgré les efforts des membres les plus influents de la société de gymnastique, environ 300 femmes continuèrent à assiéger le conak. Dans le reste de la ville, on n'apercevait que de petits groupes clairsemés et d'allures très-apaisées.

"Pendant presque toute la journée du lendemain, tout resta dans le *statu quo*. Dans l'après-midi, M. le Gouverneur-Général reçut un télégramme lui apprenant que, dans la ville voisine de Karnabad, un voyageur Israélite nommé Chaya avait été pris par la foule pour M. Schmidt et roué de coups. Heureusement, les gendarmes avaient pu arriver à temps pour sauver ce malheureux, qui était parti sous la protection d'une escorte pour la ville d'Aïdos. Pendant que nous lisions cette dépêche, il en arriva une autre apprenant à son Excellence que les habitants de la ville d'Aïdos s'étaient postés en masse en avant de cette ville, sur la route de Slivno, pour attendre M. Schmidt et l'empêcher d'entrer chez eux. Vers le milieu de l'après-midi, les deux régiments attendus ayant fait leur entrée, le Général Stolipine résolut d'en finir, et il réunit dans sa chambre une sorte de conseil de guerre, auquel assistait le Chef d'Etat-Major du Général Scobeleff, lequel depuis quelques jours se trouvait à Slivno.

"Je n'ai pas besoin de vous dire, Messieurs, que l'émotion des officiers Russes qui devaient jouer un rôle actif dans l'affaire était profonde. On savait que les femmes

réunies devant le conak se montraient résolus à résister même à la force, et on craignait qu'une grande partie de la population mâle ne se révoltât si les soldats étaient réduits à faire des victimes parmi ces femmes. La situation, il faut en convenir, était excessivement pénible pour une troupe que la population, contre laquelle on pourrait être forcé de lui demander de sévir très-rigoureusement, acclame encore avec enthousiasme comme l'armée fraternelle et libératrice. Cependant, M. le Général Stolipine se montrant aussi ferme qu'il avait été patient jusque-là, il n'y eut pas la moindre hésitation, et tout le monde fit vivement son devoir.

"Comment l'opération s'est faite, je n'en sais rien, le sentiment des convenances m'ayant retenu dans la maison : j'ignore aussi le nombre exact des soldats blessés à coups de pierre, et des habitants ou habitantes qu'il a fallu frapper pour les chasser.

"Je sais seulement qu'il y a eu quelques accidents à déplorer, mais que tout s'est passé en somme plus tranquillement que les officiers ne l'espéraient.

"Vers 6 heures, les abords du conak étaient complétement dégagés ; l'intérieur de ce bâtiment était occupé par la troupe ; des postes de soldats étaient établis sur différents points, et des patrouilles circulaient dans la ville. Tous les habitants étaient rentrés chez eux, et M. Schmidt pouvait, s'il le désirait, pénétrer dans le bureau de la Caisse, pour la vérifier et inspecter les livres.

"M. le Gouverneur-Général nous en fit la déclaration formelle. Mais il demanda à M. Schmidt s'il ne pouvait pas se contenter de faire venir les employés des finances dans la maison du Gouverneur, de s'entendre avec eux et de leur donner, sous sa présidence et devant M. Ivanoff, tous les ordres nécessaires au fonctionnement de l'Administration Financière. 'Les livres,' lui dit-il, 'vous seront envoyés à Philippopoli, et je réponds du solde en caisse.'

"La raison pour laquelle son Excellence ne se souciait pas de voir M. Schmidt inspecter personnellement le conak, était qu'une visite nocturne dans le bureau de la Caisse donnerait naissance à des accusations passionnées et troublerait de nouveau les esprits. Quant à prier M. Schmidt de rester un jour encore à Slivno, M. le Gouverneur-Général n'y songea même pas, car il nous apprit qu'il avait donné l'ordre de préparer des voitures pour nous amener à 2 heures de la nuit à la station de Kermenli avec une escorte de cavalerie.

"Son Excellence nous déclara, en outre, comme elle l'avait déjà fait à deux ou trois reprises différentes, qu'elle ne pouvait pas assumer la responsabilité d'engager M. Schmidt à continuer sa tournée ou à faire d'autres voyages dans la province, et que, dans le cas où il se mettrait de nouveau en route, elle ne garantirait pas la sécurité personnelle de notre Directeur des Finances, parce que toute expédition de ce genre se transformerait en une opération militaire impossible.

"En présence de ces déclarations officielles, M. Schmidt, après m'avoir consulté, répondit à M. le Gouverneur-Général, d'accord avec moi, qu'il lui répugnerait de faire une visite nocturne et furtive au bureau de la Caisse ; que d'ailleurs cette visite, nécessairement trop courte, n'offrirait aucun avantage pratique, parce qu'il n'aurait pas le temps de se livrer à une inspection sérieuse ; qu'il se contenterait, pour cette raison, d'inspecter les livres à Philippopoli, M. le Gouverneur-Général répondant du solde en caisse ; qu'il s'entretiendrait volontiers avec les fonctionnaires des finances pour régler avec eux quelques affaires pendantes ; que, cela fait, il repartirait pour Philippopoli à l'heure indiquée ; et enfin que, jusqu'à nouvel ordre, il renonçait à toute tournée d'inspection dans le département de Slivno.

"M. le Gouverneur-Général lui offrit alors de faire venir prochainement à Philippopoli le solde de la caisse de Slivno, et M. Schmidt accepta son offre.

"Ces arrangements faits, M. le Gouverneur-Général me communiqua l'ordre suivant, qu'il avait fait imprimer, et qui devait être affiché dans la ville en Russe et en Bulgare :

"'*Ordre.*

"'*Le 7 Mars*, 1879.

"'Je fais savoir par le présent Ordre que, vu les désordres qui se sont produits à Slivno, toutes les personnes trouvées dans la rue sans fanal, après le coucher du soleil, seront arrêtées.

"'Les attroupements dans les rues sont défendus de jour comme de nuit.

"'Les coupables seront arrêtés et jugés.

"'Les boutiques doivent être ouvertes.

"'Les propriétaires des boutiques fermées seront, à partir d'aujourd'hui, passibles d'une amende d'un pol Impérial par jour.

"'Le Gouverneur de Slivno,
(Signé) "'IVANOFF.'

"M. le Général Stolipine m'apprit aussi que quelques individus ayant résisté à la troupe avaient été arrêtés et condamnés à recevoir chacun vingt-cinq coups de "nogaïka ;" que l'ordre serait donné d'arrêter quelques meneurs : que le café dans lequel se réunissaient les agitateurs seraient frappés d'une amende considérable, dont le produit serait employé à la reconstruction d'une école détruite par les Turcs ; et enfin qu'une assez forte garnison serait logée chez les habitants, pour que tout le monde en ville eût sa part du châtiment.

"J'annonçai à son Excellence que ces déclarations, ainsi que celles adressées à M. Schmidt, seraient portées à la connaissance de la Commission Européenne, et j'ajoutai que je tenais d'abord à la remercier pour la parfaite courtoisie avec laquelle nous avions été traités par elle, et ensuite à la féliciter pour la prudence et la fermeté sage dont elle avait donné des preuves devant nous.

"A 8 heures et demie du soir, le Caissier de Slivno, qui avait été enfermé chez lui et retenu prisonnier par les émeutiers, fut présenté avec les autres employés des Finances à M. Schmidt, lequel eut avec eux un entretien dont il vous rendra lui-même compte tout à l'heure.

"A 2 heures et demie du matin nous quittions Slivno en téléga, escortés par vingt-deux cavaliers de la Drougine Bulgare, quinze Cosaques, et cinq gendarmes Russes. Les miliciens nous ont quittés à la station de Kermenli ; quant aux Cosaques et aux gendarmes, ils sont arrivés hier soir avec nous à Philippopoli."

Sur l'invitation de M. le Président, *M. Schmidt* rend compte, dans les termes suivants, de son entrevue avec les employés de l'Administration Financière à Slivno :—

"Mardi, $\frac{6}{18}$ Mars, vers 8 heures et demie soir, M. Brokoff, Caissier d'Arrondissement, M. Chopoff, Contrôleur, et M. Gulmiazoff, Directeur des Contributions Indirectes, se présentèrent à la maison du Gouverneur. La population les avait, pendant les quatre jours de ma présence à Slivno, tenus comme prisonniers chez eux, et les avait menacés d'incendier leur maison s'ils venaient me parler pour recevoir mes ordres.

"Les livres ne me furent pas apportés.

"Je m'entretins avec les employés des affaires de service pendantes, et je leur expliquai les instructions qu'ils avaient reçus par lettre, instructions qui n'avaient pas été toujours suivies. J'appris à mon grand étonnement que, sur un ordre du Gouverneur-Général, le Gouverneur de Slivno s'était fait payer par le Caissier une somme d'environ 4,000 fr. pour la remettre à Sophia, comme produit d'une partie de la dîme, et que, quelques jours auparavant, le Caissier avait reçu l'ordre de verser une autre somme de 40,000 fr. entre les mains du Gouverneur de Slivno sur un ordre du Gouverneur-Général, pour être remise à Yéni-Zaghra, à titre de subvention aux émigrés d'Andrinople.

"Je profitai de la présence de M. le Gouverneur-Général et du Gouverneur de Slivno pour leur demander des explications. Son Excellence le Général Stolipine me dit que les 40,000 fr. devaient être pris sur les sommes provenant du butin de guerre. Il reconnut qu'il était en tout cas incorrect de donner l'ordre au Caissier de retenir sur les sommes conditionnelles le montant des dits 40,000 fr., après avoir écrit à la Commission Européenne, avant l'expédition de cet ordre, que toutes les sommes conditionnelles lui seraient remises. Comme il fut immédiatement constaté qu'il ne se trouvait pas à Slivno parmi les sommes conditionnelles des fonds provenant du butin de guerre, M. le Gouverneur-Général donna aussitôt l'ordre de restituer à la Caisse d'Arrondissement les 40,000 fr. en question, qui se trouvaient encore à Slivno. Cela fait, M. le Gouverneur-Général voulut bien, en présence du Gouverneur de Slivno, répéter aux employés présents qu'aucun paiement ne pourrait être effectué sans une autorisation de la Direction Générale des Finances.

"Après avoir réglé quelques autres détails, les employés se retirèrent ; il était environ 11 heures du soir."

M. de Katlay croit de son devoir, avant même que la Commission ne prenne une décision au sujet des faits qui viennent de lui être relatés, d'exprimer ses remercîments à MM. de Contouly et Schmidt pour leur attitude au cours de leur voyage à Slivno, attitude qui a été de nature à honorer la Commission, et à la faire respecter autant que cela était possible dans les circonstances que l'on connaît.

Le Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie est persuadé qu'en exprimant sa satisfaction au

Rapporteur du Comité des Finances et au Directeur des Finances, il est l'interprète des sentiments de tous ses collègues.

M. de Braunschweig déclare qu'il tient à remercier M. de Coutouly pour le récit intéressant et plein d'impartialité qu'il vient de faire.

Tous les Commissaires s'associent aux paroles prononcées par MM. les Commissaires d'Autriche-Hongrie et d'Allemagne.

La séance est levée à 6 heures 25 minutes.

(Signé) RING.
COUTOULY.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
DONOUGHMORE.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.

No. 583.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 23.)

(No. 162.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 11, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of despatches which I have received from the Earl of Donoughmore at Philippopolis.

Lord Donoughmore reports fresh insurrectionary movements in Eastern Roumelia, and the renewal of the ill-treatment of the Mussulman population; at the same time he announces the commencement of an emigration of Mussulmans from the districts of Haskeui and Hermanly, and the intention of the Russians to withdraw their forces from the Rhodope.

Lord Donoughmore also incloses translations from the "Maritza," one of which calls attention to the critical nature of the situation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 583.

Lord Donoughmore to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

Dear Sir H. Wolff, *Philippopolis, April* 6, 1879.

I HEARD reported some days ago, from a source upon which I do not place much reliance, that certain armed bands of Bulgarians had left the district of Yamboli, and that similar bands, supposed to be the same, had shortly afterwards entered Philippopolis. I now learn upon better authority that armed Bulgarians have been dropping into the town every day in small groups of five or six. These people are attracted by the hope of plunder, which is held out to them as the reward of their share in the proposed disturbances.

It is also reported that the day fixed for a rising, originally the 13th, has been altered.

The Russian Panslavist agents, principally Baron Wolfe, M. Nekludof, and M. Gritzenko, are busily engaged in inciting the population to violent measures. They meet the leading Bulgarians almost every day, and though the latter are reported to be unwilling to take an extreme course, the gentlemen above named are doing their utmost to compel or persuade them to do so.

The Notables of the town of Avridilan have arrived at Philippopolis, in order to

protest to the Governor-General against the proceedings of the Revolutionary Committee of the place. They have refused to contribute to the funds being raised there for revolutionary purposes, and have, in consequence, been menaced with ill-usage and death.

Generals Stolipine and Skobeleff have both left Philippopolis, the former for Tirnovo, the latter for Tirnova-Seimenli, *en route*, it is said, for Constantinople. General Stolipine is expected to return here on Tuesday or Wednesday.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DONOUGHMORE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 583.

Lord Donoughmore to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

Dear Sir H. Wolff, *Philippopolis, April* 6, 1879.

I INCLOSE herewith translations from the "Maritza" of the 4th April.

No. 1 draws attention to the critical nature of the situation, pointing out that it will be more so than ever it was in the past, after the departure of the Russian army, and, without counselling active measures, suggesting the necessity of organization and of taking a decision as to what should be done in the future. It concludes by saying that no time must be lost in order to insure success.

No. 2 contains the regulations for a rifle competition among the different Gymnastic Societies, to be held on Friday in Easter week.

No. 3 is a draft address for presentation by the Bulgarian Assembly to the Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DONOUGHMORE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 583.

Lord Donoughmore to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

Dear Sir H. Wolff, *Philippopolis, April* 6, 1879.

I HEAR that during the last week the Turks at Tatar-Bazardjik have been subjected to much ill-treatment on the part of the Bulgarians. A considerable number, some thirty or forty individuals, have arrived at Philippopolis. They complain that no Turk in the town is able to go out after sunset, some who have ventured to do so having disappeared entirely, and that a number of the women have been outraged.

I am also informed that the Turkish inhabitants of the villages in the environs of Tatar-Bazardjik are leaving their homes and assembling in that town.

The same is the case in the neighbourhood of Philippopolis, the inhabitants of Tue-Bekdji having migrated hither in a body.

Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert will send fuller details of Mr. Malet on these matters.

In the event of these people appealing to me, I propose to address the Governor-General on the basis of the understanding between Lord Salisbury and Count Schouvaloff.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DONOUGHMORE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 583.

Lord Donoughmore to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

Dear Sir H. Wolff, *Philippopolis, April* 8, 1879.

I TELEGRAPHED to you to-day regarding the emigration of Turkish inhabitants from the districts of Hermanly and Haskeui, and the intention of the Russian authorities to withdraw their troops from Rhodope for sanitary reasons.

M. Schmidt received this information direct from the Governor of Philippopolis, who added that the troops were to be replaced by the Gardes Champêtres.

You will no doubt recollect that these Gardes Champêtres form as it were the second ban of the Bulgarian army which has been raised during the Russian occupation. They

are a sort of "armée de réserve," ranking after the militia, while the Gymnastic Societies may be looked upon as the "armée territoriale." Their presence in the Rhodope would in all probability lead to serious disturbances, and their being sent there would appear to be the preface to an attempt to expatriate the Mussulman population of the district, as appears to be doing at Hermanly as well as this neighbourhood and that of Tatar-Bazardjik, as I have reported to you by telegraph.

General Hübsch's reason for removing the Russian troops from the Rhodope is not as fortunate as it might be, that station at this time and during the summer being far more healthy than the plain.

With reference to my despatch No. 7, Mr. Walpole visited to-day one of the families which had come in from the village of Tue-Bekdji. The women had been outraged, and one was horribly mutilated having been repeatedly stabbed in the leg, and having sustained injuries in other places.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DONOUGHMORE.

No. 584.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 163. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 11, 1879.*

MR. MACKENZIE WALLACE, the "Times" correspondent, has given me confidentially the Memorandum, copy of which is inclosed, on the intentions of the Russians with respect to the Balkan garrisons.

He intended to send it to the "Times" as a telegram, but changed his mind.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 584.

Memorandum.

THERE is reason to believe that the Cabinet of St. Petersburgh will strenuously oppose the placing of Turkish garrisons in the Balkans. This intelligence, which I have received from a very good source, is quite in accordance with my opinion that the chief aim which the Russians have had in view in exciting and arming the Bulgarians, and in recently proposing the mixed occupation, has been to postpone, and ultimately prevent altogether, the execution of that clause of the Berlin Treaty which provides that the Balkans shall be garrisoned by Ottoman troops, without the necessity of undertaking a new war for the purpose. This scheme, it is thought, is now on a fair way to execution. The situation was described to me briefly by a Russian diplomatist thus: The only two Powers which care for the execution of this clause are England and Austria, and neither of them is likely to act vigorously in the matter, for England has difficulties in Afghanistan, South Africa, Burmah, and Egypt, whilst Austria, finding herself isolated, will readily accept a compromise. There can be no doubt that ever since the Congress, Russia has been striving to paralyze the Treaty of Berlin and resuscitate the Treaty of San Stefano in all that relates to Bulgaria, and that the energy with which she has carried out this policy has always been in the inverse ratio of the danger of producing war. As there seems now little danger of any Power going to war to secure the garrisoning of the Balkans by the Turks, Russia will be firm on the point, and will thereby remove one of the chief obstacles to future invasion of Turkey from the north. The Balkans may not be such a good military frontier as some people at the time of the Congress imagined, but it is better, the Russians think, that they should be in the hands of friends than of enemies.

No. 585.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 164. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 11, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a letter from Philippopolis which appeared in the "Constantinople Messenger" of yesterday. It tallies in a remarkable degree with the views generally expressed by the French Commissioners. In the paragraph respecting Baron de Ring it is evident that the writer desires to convey that gentleman's interpretation of his own conduct, viz., the wish to promote the influence of France, tempered by a due regard for the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin.

A curious episode is now in course of action. The French Commissioners left Philippopolis on Wednesday week, in company of Colonel Schepelew, and were the object of a species of ovation at the railway station on the part of the Bulgarian Notables, ecclesiastical and secular. They passed the Thursday at Adrianople and arrived here on Friday evening.

On Monday M. de Torcy took the opportunity of calling on the Sultan to show His Majesty some collarless artillery harness, the use of which he had recommended for the Ottoman army. The Sultan, knowing that M. de Torcy had recently visited Philippopolis, asked him some questions on the subject, and the latter advised him to send for M. de Ring, who had just returned from a prolonged residence in Eastern Roumelia. The Sultan at once desired M. de Torcy to request M. de Ring to call on His Majesty the following day, together with M. de Montholon.

Baron de Ring accordingly had an audience of two hours with the Sultan on Tuesday, during which, I understand, he argued at length the expediency of appointing a European Governor-General for Eastern Roumelia, hinting at the same time that the European should be a Frenchman. In short, I have little doubt that his views are well expressed in the article inclosed.

This eagerness of the Sultan to receive M. de Ring alone of all the Commissioners, notwithstanding his open advocacy of Bulgarian interests and M. de Coutouly's candidature, does not appear to me to be the result of pure accident.

I am told that the evening previous M. de Ring dined with Khairredin Pasha, when he, no doubt, advanced the same ideas.

The Grand Vizier has acted with duplicity on the subject of M. de Coutouly's candidature. To Count Castellane, I know, and to M. Fournier, I believe, he spoke in favour of it; while to others he laughed at it. Perhaps such a course is almost inevitable in the terrible straits to which the Porte is reduced; but I scarcely think it prudent for Ottoman Ministers to encourage the pretensions of the Bulgarians by selecting publicly as the depository of their confidence those whose acts and language have been practically in opposition to Turkish interests, and, both directly and indirectly, calculated to favour the objects of Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 586.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 60. Political.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 11, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Assembly, in its revision of the Organic Law during the sitting on Monday last, made the following further changes in the programme:—

Chapter XII.—Part III.

Article 64. The words "paid before hand" inserted before "compensation."

Part IV.

Article 65. Last clause omitted.

Article 67. Added: "Foreigners may hold service in the Principality on taking the oath of fidelity without changing their nationality."

To be inserted in a Protest, between Articles 66 and 67.

"No tax can be collected in kind."

"The collection of the taxes may not be sold."

Article 70. Added: "No sentence can be passed except such as are previously established by law."

"No accused person can be tortured."

I further learn by telegram that, in the sitting of the following day, the Russian programme of a Senate was rejected, and the convocation of a Greater Assembly voted in its stead.

Hereon the "Conservative" or "Russian" party moved for an adjournment of the Assembly; but the motion was thrown out by the Liberals, who are reported to be completely victorious.

I have the honour to observe that the anti-Russian character of the Assembly, owing to causes explained or alluded to in my previous despatches, is becoming more strongly marked every day. And, thus far, I believe the Assembly to be a tolerably faithful mirror of the national tendency at large.

Also, that the Assembly is bent on doing its work, in spite of all intrigues to the contrary, within the period fixed by the Treaty of Berlin.

Nor am I without hope that even an anti-Russian candidate for the Princedom, could such be found and properly supported, might be elected. But matters of this kind are attended by much uncertainty.

I am also informed that the Russian Imperial Commissary is seriously unwell.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 587.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 6.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 11, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I was received on the 9th instant, by appointment, by Carathéodory Pasha, who spoke to me at length on the subject of the Bulgarian frontier, which he appeared to have studied very carefully.

He seemed to think it much less urgent to consider the question of a future invasion by Russia, which Turkey, he remarked, could not meet alone, than to provide against a possible combination of Bulgaria, Servia, and Montenegro, accompanied by a rising of the disaffected inhabitants of Eastern Roumelia; and it seems to have been strongly impressed upon him that it would, therefore, be very important to place a force permanently on the frontier about Ichtiman.

But some of his military advisers, he said, considered that such an occupation would be rendered very difficult by the fact that this frontier force would be separated from support by the breadth of Eastern Roumelia. He, therefore, went on to consider how such support might be best given, and whether the terms of the Treaty of Berlin might not admit of the occupation of a line of towns in Eastern Roumelia (or rather, I presume, of camps near them), such as Sliven and Kesanlik, by Turkish garrisons; observing that the measure of providing barracks for their troops while on the march from Turkish territory to the frontier posts had already been proposed at Berlin. He believed that if such an occupation were held to be practicable there would be no difficulty in providing for the defence of the frontier, which in any other case must be a very doubtful task.

His Excellency having inquired what part of the frontier I thought the Commission would first proceed to, I mentioned that Sir H. Wolff had acquainted me with the importance he attached (on grounds with which I presume your Lordship to be already acquainted) to the immediate settlement of that part of the frontier which lies within the old Sandjak of Sofia, in which the Minister said he entirely concurred. I trouble your Lordship with this Report, because you may not previously have been aware, as I was not myself, of the precise reasons, which, from a Turkish point of view, exist for attaching special importance to the part of the frontier about Ichtiman; and also, because I had not previously heard the question raised as to the possibility of occupying, under sanction of the Treaty of Berlin, places in Eastern Roumelia not absolutely on the frontier line with Turkish garrisons.

As these are matters which it is within the scope of the Delimitation Commission to discuss, I trust I may have the advantage of your Lordship's instructions on them.

On considering, since, the view suggested by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, I have failed to perceive the probability of such a combination as he adverted to taking place in any formidable degree, while it is evident that Turkey could effectually crush, from her present frontier, all efforts made against her by Bulgaria singly. At the same time, the establishment of strong posts on the Bulgarian frontier might be a great obstacle to the joint action of Bulgaria with insurrectionists in Eastern Roumelia.

As his Excellency's precise reasons for considering the combination probable were not clearly apparent to me, and as he desired me to offer to him any opinion I might form on the subject, I shall endeavour to procure another opportunity for becoming more fully acquainted with his views.

His Excellency also observed that he should be glad if I were to make myself acquainted with the views of the Seraskier, Osman Pasha, on these points. As I was to see both him and the Grand Vizier, by appointment, the same afternoon, I adverted to the subject in my interviews with them, but received no communication from either which it would be in any way useful to report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 588.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 20.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 10, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, up to the present date, there has been no official meeting of the Commission for the Delimitation of Eastern Roumelia, the Austrian, German, and Italian Delegates not having returned to Constantinople.

It appears to me that the first and, for the moment, most important question to be decided is the nationality of the escort which will necessarily have to accompany the Commission.

This question, being purely of a political nature, is not one that can be decided by the Commissioners themselves.

I have therefore consulted Mr. Malet, and on Saturday, the 12th instant, hope to have the honour of an interview with his Excellency Carathéodory Pasha, and obtain his opinion.

Mr. Malet was good enough to see the Grand Vizier, and discuss the subject with his Excellency.

The Grand Vizier is of opinion, in the neighbourhood of Bourgas, where the Commission will probably recommence its labours, that it would be unwise, and lead to possible complications, were the Turkish Government to furnish the escort. His Excellency suggested that it should be taken from the Bulgarian militia. This, I am of opinion, would be extremely unadvisable, as the force has not yet been definitely organized in accordance with the Treaty of Berlin, the officers not being those nominated by the Sublime Porte.

I have consulted General Hamley, who considers that, from the Black Sea to the Tundja Valley, the escort should be given by the Russians—the concurrence of the Turkish Government being first obtained, as it would bring occasionally Russian troops within the border of what is purely Turkish territory.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff holds the same opinion as General Hamley, and Mr. Malet has been good enough to say that he will speak to Prince Lobanoff and inform me of his Excellency's opinion on this important question.

The Tundja Valley is the point where the Commission suspended its labours last year, and if accompanied by a Russian escort so far, it may be expected by that time that the evacuation of Eastern Roumelia by the Russian troops will be nearly, if not entirely, completed, which would simplify the question of escort greatly, as it would there probably be furnished by Reouf Pasha, Turkish Commander-in-chief at Adrianople, from the next point on the River Maritza, near Mustafa Pasha, whence the frontier runs westwards towards the Rhodope Mountains.

I hope by next despatch to be able to inform your Lordship of the arrival of the

remaining members of the Commission, and that the date of recommencing our labours has been fixed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON.

No. 589.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 23.)

(No. 88.)
My Lord, *Athens, April* 6, 1879.

M. DELYANNI told me yesterday that the attention of the Greek Government had been drawn to a Report which it is understood M. de Gubernatis, Italian Consul-General at Smyrna, had made to his Government on the state of feeling existing in Epirus relative to a union with Greece; and that the Greek Minister at Rome had been instructed to represent to M. Depretis that, from information which had been received from the Greek Consul at Prevesa, it did not seem that M. de Gubernatis had had opportunities of testing the real feeling of the inhabitants on the subject. He had not gone to Janina at all, and remained only six days in Prevesa, where he was exclusively in communication with the Albanian Beys, who had been summoned by Mukhtar Pasha on the occasion of the first meeting of the Commissioners at Prevesa to make a demonstration in favour of remaining under the dominion of the Porte, and they had, at his instigation, addressed a Petition in this sense to the Great Powers.

M. Delyanni said that the Report of M. de Gubernatis, based on the information given by these persons, ought not to be considered as decisive of the state of feeling of the inhabitants of the Province and City of Janina in regard to union with Greece.

It is certain that all the information that has reached Athens goes to show that the inhabitants of the south of Epirus, even the Mahommedan proprietors, for the sake of peace and security, would see with indifference, if not with satisfaction, their incorporation into the kingdom.

It is probable, however, that those of the inhabitants who are of a contrary opinion have no opportunity of making their wishes known at Athens.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 590.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 23.)

(No. 89.)
My Lord, *Athens, April* 7, 1879.

AS I informed your Lordship in my despatch No. 63 of the 12th ultimo, the Greek Government have sent stringent orders to the military authorities on the northern frontier to put down all attempts at disturbance.

They have also proposed, through the Greek Minister at Constantinople to the Turkish Government, that the civil and military authorities of the two countries should combine measures for joint action against brigandage on both sides of the frontier, and a meeting was arranged to take place with this object at Sourpi on the $\frac{5}{17}$th ultimo, which was adjourned to the $\frac{7}{19}$th of the same month.

I have the honour to inclose, in translation, the Protocols of what passed at the two sittings.

At the first sitting three proposals made by the Greek Delegates, which relate merely to passport regulations and facilities for the reciprocal communication of intelligence, were agreed to; but the fourth proposal, that Greek troops should be allowed to follow brigands on Ottoman territory, was rejected absolutely by the Turkish Delegate, as he stated, acting under superior orders, the authorities on the Turkish side of the frontier being quite able to maintain order there.

The Ottoman Commissioners made three counter-propositions:—

1. That refugees in Greece should be prohibited from bringing arms and ammunition.

2. That Turkish detachments should be allowed to move about freely on the frontier line and in the deserted barracks.

3. That the Greek authorities, civil and military, should arrest brigands who took

refuge in Greece in consequence of the action of the Ottoman military detachments in pursuit of them.

To the first proposal the Greek Delegates answered that the brigands who took refuge on Greek soil left their arms hidden on Turkish territory, and, as they possessed no list of the brigands, they were unable to recognize them, but that when they met with suspicious persons armed, they were arrested and imprisoned.

To the second proposal, it was answered that it was unnecessary, as the Ottoman troops had full liberty of action on Ottoman territory. It was, however, accepted.

The third proposal was rejected as useless, as the Hellenic authorities had often proved.

Skender Pasha acknowledged that it was on the Turkish side of the frontier that brigandage prevailed.

Finally, in regard to the fourth Greek proposal, Skender Pasha proposed to ask for instructions from his superiors in Larissa, and it was agreed that another meeting should take place on the $\frac{7}{19}$th ultimo.

A meeting took place on that day, and Skender Pasha expressed his regret that he was unable to give a decided and definitive answer to the fourth Greek proposal, as the Commander of the forces at Larissa had declared he had not the necessary authority to accept it, but he had telegraphed to Constantinople for instructions. As his Excellency was unable to say when a reply would be received from Constantinople it was agreed to close the Conferences, and that the answer should be communicated to the proper Hellenic authorities through the Legation of Greece at Constantinople, or through the Greek Consulate at Larissa.

I believe this Government is sincerely desirous to avoid complications on the frontier at this moment when the question of mediation is before the Great Powers; but, to be efficacious, all measures for the suppression of brigandage must be carried out jointly by the authorities on both sides of the frontier, and the apathy, as they assert, shown by the Porte on the subject, is an obstacle to any such arrangement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 590.

1er *Protocole.*

A SOURPI aujourd'hui, Lundi, 5 Mars, 1879, à 1 heure après-midi, le Préfet de la Phthiotide, D. Dimitrakalli, le Procureur du Roi près le Tribunal de Première Instance de Lamia, M. Kyrgoussio, et le Commandant des colonnes volantes de la Phthiotide Liakopoulo, Lieutenant-Colonel, se sont rendus à l'Ecole Primaire de Sourpi (préparée à l'effet d'observer les prescriptions sanitaires) pour se concerter avec Skender Pacha, Général de Brigade et Commandant Militaire d'Ahmyro, sur les mesures à prendre contre le brigandage qui désole la Thessalie. Après un échange de compliments mutuels, Skender Pacha a demandé aux Délégués Hellènes quelles propositions ils avaient à faire sur la question qui avait provoqué la présente Conférence. Attendu que le susdit Pacha ne sait pas le Grec, le Procureur du Roi, M. M. Kyrgoussio, lui a fait, en Français, les propositions ci-après dans l'ordre suivant:—

Première Proposition.—Consacrer la mesure de l'entente directe entre les autorités civiles et militaires Grecques et Ottomanes, par la voie télégraphique dans les localités où il y a des bureaux télégraphiques, par des estafettes dans les localités où il ne s'en trouve pas. Cette proposition a été acceptée.

Deuxième Proposition.—Nul Ottoman n'est admis à circuler dans l'état Hellénique s'il n'est muni d'un passe-port dûment visé par les autorités compétentes, et *vice versa*. Cette proposition a été acceptée.

Troisième Proposition.—Les cinq bureaux télégraphiques Grecs de la frontière pouvont être employés par les autorités Ottomanes à titre gratuit, pour toute entente concernant la sûreté publique. Cette proposition à été également adoptée.

Quatrième Proposition.—Vu la difficulté de l'entente, il sera concédé volontiers aux colonnes volantes Grecques le droit de poursuivre les brigands en Thessalie, indépendamment et en dehors des poursuites exercées contemporairement par les forces militaires Ottomanes.

Son Excellence Skender Pacha a repoussé cette proposition d'une manière absolue. Il a dit qu'il ne croit pas généralement cette mesure nécessaire, la Turquie pouvant suffire à maintenir l'ordre public au moyen des 3,000 hommes de troupes qu'elle a mis

sous ses ordres et ramener l'ordre sans le concours des colonnes volantes Helléniques. On aurait, en outre, si la quatrième proposition était adoptée, des plaintes de la part des sujets Ottomans de la ligne frontière contre les détachements Hellènes, et, rien que pour cela, des embarras entre les deux Gouvernements. Il a, enfin, demandé aux Délégués Hellènes s'ils proposaient cette mesure par esprit de sympathie pour le pays ou par un sentiment de générosité envers la Gouvernement Ottoman, en ajoutant qu'il a repoussé la proposition par ordre supérieur et aussi parce c'est son opinion personnelle. Les Délégués Hellènes ont répondu que la Grèce ne fait cette proposition ni par esprit de sympathie ni par un sentiment de générosité envers le Gouvernement Ottoman, car, ont-ils ajouté, ce ne sont pas les sympathies et les sentiments qui règlent les actes des Gouvernements, mais par intérêt pour l'Etat Hellénique qui se ressent gravement du désordre qui règne dans l'Etat Ottoman. Ces mesures, le Gouvernement Hellénique les croit utiles contre la foule de brigands rebelles qui se réfugient en Grèce. La situation actuelle prouve que les mesures prises par le Gouvernement Ottoman sont insuffisantes. L'adoption de la quatrième proposition ne saurait donner lieu, comme on le redoute, à des plaintes de la part des sujets Ottomans des deux religions; aucun précédent ne saurait justifier un pareil soupçon. Au contraire, les autorités de Domokos ont toujours proposé autrefois, et cela avec plaisir, une pareille mesure. En outre, la difficulté de se concerter dans le plus bref délai possible, la confiance des espions rendue plus facile par la communauté de religion, et la récompense sérieuse accordée en vertu de la loi à quiconque dénonce ou tue un brigand, justifient l'adoption de la mesure proposée. Skender Pacha a répliqué qu'il ignore les propositions faites par les autorités de Domokos, puis a ajouté qu'il ne représente pas les opinions des autorités de Domokos ni de celles de Larisse, mais l'opinion de son Gouvernement. Il a fait, de son côté, les contre-propositions suivantes:—

1. Défendre aux réfugiés de l'Etat Hellénique l'achat d'armes et de munitions.

2. Permettre aux détachements Ottomans de se mouvoir en toute liberté sur la ligne frontière en territoire Turc, et même dans les casernes démolies.

3. Que les autorités Helléniques, civiles et militaires, poursuivent et arrêtent les brigands qui pénétreraient en Grèce par suite des poursuites dirigées contre eux par des détachements militaires Ottomans.

Les Délégués Hellènes ont fait sur ces contre-propositions les observations suivantes:—

Sur la première contre-proposition:

Que les individus qui commettent des actes de brigandage en Turquie entrent sans armes sur le territoire Hellénique, et les autorités Grecques, n'ayant pas de listes des brigands rebelles, ne peuvent les reconnaître.

Pour les armes et les munitions, il les tiennent cachées dans le territoire Ottoman. Chaque fois que l'on a rencontré en Grèce des hommes armés suspects on les a arrêtés et emprisonnés.

Sur la deuxième contre-proposition:

Qu'elle est tout-à-fait inutile, les troupes Ottomanes ayant le droit d'avoir toute liberté dans leurs mouvements en dedans de la frontière Turque. Cependant, son Excellence le Pacha ayant insisté, cette proposition a été adoptée.

Sur la troisième contre-proposition:

Qu'elle est tout-à-fait inutile; ainsi que les actes des autorités Helléniques l'ont tant de fois démontré, cette proposition a toujours été exécutée.

Skender Pasha a reconnu à la fin que, de fait, ce n'est pas le territoire Hellène, mais le territoire Ottoman, qui souffre du brigandage, mais il espère que le mal sera guéri par les mesures prises par son Gouvernement. Hésitant, cependant, à se décider sur la quatrième proposition Hellénique, il a prié d'ajourner la discussion jusqu'au Mercredi prochain, 7 courant, afin qu'il reçoive les instructions qu'il a demandées au Gouverneur Militaire de Larisse. Les Délégués Hellènes ayant accepté cette proposition, la séance a été levée.

(Suivent les signatures.)

2ème *Protocole.*

A Sourpi aujourd'hui, Mercredi, 7 Mars, 1879, à 1 heure après-midi, et dans la susdite Ecole Primaire, où se sont réunis les personnes susmentionnées, pour reprendre et continuer la discussion suspendue avant-hier, son Excellence Skender

Pacha ayant été prié de communiquer les instructions qu'il avait demandées, a répondu en ces termes:—

"Je regrette, Messieurs, de ne pouvoir vous donner une réponse décisive et définitive sur votre quatrième proposition. Le Gouverneur Supérieur Militaire des forces de la Thessalie résidant à Larisse, ne m'a donné aucun pouvoir sur ce sujet, n'en ayant pas, malheureusement, lui-même. Il m'a annoncé cependant qu'il a demandé par le télégraphe des instructions à Constantinople, et qu'il me les communiquera aussitôt après qu'il les aura reçues."

Skender Pacha interrogé, n'ayant pu désigner le temps où il pouvait recevoir les instructions attendues, il a été résolu de clore les conférences, et de communiquer la résolution Ottomane aux autorités Helléniques compétentes par le canal de la Légation de Grèce à Constantinople ou du Consul de Grèce à Larisse.

En foi de quoi, &c.

(Suivent les signatures.)

No. 591.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 90.)

My Lord, *Athens, April 8, 1879.*

A "TE DEUM" was sung in the Cathedral yesterday, being the anniversary of the declaration of Greek independence, which was attended by the King and Queen and the other members of the Royal Family.

The Diplomatic Body then present in Athens, with the exception of the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, who was not invited, attended at the ceremony.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 592.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 96.)

My Lord, *Athens, April 12, 1879.*

A DEPUTATION from the Epirote Committee of Athens leaves to-day for Rome to ask the Italian Government to support the rights of the inhabitants of Epirus to the possession of Janina.

Although this mission has not an official character, still its object is fully approved by the Greek Government, and I am informed that M. Coumoundouros told one of the members, who was taking leave of him, that in case the Italian Government should inquire what Greece would do if their desires as to Janina were not satisfied, he might say frankly that they were determined to try the fortune of war.

I have no reason to suppose, however, that this expression of the President of the Council represents the feeling of the Government, or that public opinion would support them if they showed a disposition to employ violent measures.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 593.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 445.)

My Lord, *Paris, April 21, 1879.*

I MENTIONED to M. Waddington this afternoon that Her Majesty's Government had instructed General Hamley, Her Majesty's Commissioner for the Bulgarian boundary, to begin the work of delimitation on the west if possible. During the earlier part of the work the Commissioners would, I observed, have the protection of the Russian troops; but when this ceased, it would be desirable that they should be as near as possible to the eastern shore, in the neighbourhood of which the population is less hostile, while on the

other hand it would be easier to introduce a Turkish escort in that quarter without marching it through districts inhabited by Bulgarians.

M. Waddington took a note of what I had said.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 594.

Count Andrassy to Count Károlyi.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Károlyi, April 23.)

(Translation.)

Terebes, April 16, 1879.

M. le Comte,

I HAVE read your Excellency's Report of the 2nd of this month with considerable interest, and for the further elucidation of the facts of the Schluga affair, I have to communicate to your Excellency the following additional details:—

Count Zichy has repeatedly examined the aforesaid person who sent the Marquis of Salisbury's despatch to the office of the "Politische Correspondenz," and at first learned from him that the document in question was forwarded to him from Paris. This statement was at once found to be untrue, as a comparison of the dates in reference to the alleged arrival of the despatch at Constantinople and its transmission to the "Politische Correspondenz" showed the impossibility of its having come from Paris; and Schluga himself afterwards modified his declaration by stating that Vienna was the place whence the document came. He said he had forwarded the despatch to the "Politische Correspondenz" as it reached him, partly written in pencil and partly in ink. The falsity of this assertion was proved at once. An inspection of the manuscript sent to the "Politische Correspondenz" showed that it came entirely from Schluga's hand, and, moreover, that a correspondence annexed to it was superabundantly signed with his name.

Besides this, the most careful inquiries at the Ministry itself have clearly shown Schluga's assertion, that the indiscretion was committed at Vienna, to be altogether untenable. An exact account is kept of all the copies or translations of such documents prepared for further communication to the missions, and the use made of every single copy could be proved. The number of copies made here too was complete; not one was missing.

I have informed Count Zichy of these fresh details, and particularly of the fact that the manuscript is in Schluga's handwriting, and have invited him to proceed with the investigation of the results hitherto obtained which seem to indicate some carelessness at Constantinople. I am still expecting his answer. I would not, however, omit to apprize your Excellency of the present state of the case, though incomplete, and I request you to communicate this to Lord Salisbury.

The frank reception which my first intimations met with from Her Majesty the Queen's Government makes it doubly my duty to afford a full explanation, and, at the same time, to give a pledge that the recurrence of such an unpleasant incident will be effectually prevented on our side.

Receive, &c.
(Signed) ANDRASSY.

No. 595.

M. Waddington to Admiral Pothuau.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Admiral Pothuau, April 23.)

Paris, le 21 *Avril*, 1879.

M. l'Amiral,

LES questions soulevées par le 13e Protocole du Congrès de Berlin ont été l'objet, dans ces derniers temps, de négociations directes qui n'ont malheureusement pas abouti. Au mois d'Octobre, nous avions demandé aux Puissances de vouloir bien intervenir à Constantinople pour que la Porte donnât son adhésion explicite au principe d'une rectification de frontières en faveur de la Grèce et consentît à nommer des Commissaires qui seraient chargés d'étudier, avec ceux du Gouvernement Hellénique, les conditions du nouveau tracé. Avertie de l'accueil que cette démarche avait reçu, et désireuse d'en prévenir les effets par un acte spontané, la Porte résolut de se mettre en rapports avec le Cabinet d'Athènes et les deux parties désignèrent leurs Commissaires respectifs qui se réunirent ensuite à Preveza.

Mais à peine les négociations étaient-elles commencées que de graves difficultés surgirent. Les Commissaires Helléniques, invoquant les décisions du Congrès, s'attachèrent à présenter le tracé du 13e Protocole comme la base invariable de toute entente; leurs collègues Ottomans en contestèrent la valeur obligatoire et firent connaître qu'il était indispensable de chercher ailleurs un terrain de discussion. Dès ce moment, les Représentants des deux Gouvernements parurent séparés par une question fondamentale qui devait amener l'insuccès des Conférences.

En application de leurs principes, les Commissaires de la Porte communiquèrent, le 19 Mars, un tracé rectificatif des frontières Helléniques partant d'un point à déterminer sur le Golfe de Volo pour aboutir à la vallée de l'Aspropotamos. Les Commissaires Grecs firent observer que cette ligne ne répondait nullement aux indications du Congrès, et qu'ayant pour instructions de ne pas s'en écarter, ils jugeaient impossible de continuer les négociations qui furent rompues le même jour.

Tel est le résumé des incidents dont le Cabinet d'Athènes vient de prendre acte pour réclamer une seconde fois, conformément à l'Article XXIV du Traité du 13 Juillet, la médiation des Puissances. Le Congrès avait exprimé la confiance que les deux parties réussiraient à se mettre d'accord; l'événement n'a pas répondu à cet espoir; le rôle de l'Europe semble tout tracé.

Les considérations qui l'avaient déterminée, il y a huit mois, à ne pas négliger la question Grecque, non-seulement n'ont rien perdu de leur force, mais elles s'imposent aujourd'hui à sa prévoyance d'une façon toute particulière. Le Traité de Berlin est, désormais, en pleine exécution sur tous les points essentiels, et il va recevoir incessamment sa sanction définitive par le départ des troupes Russes qui occupent encore la Roumélie Orientale. Il est superflu de rappeler les préoccupations qui se mêlent à cette échéance. L'état actuel des rapports entre la Turquie et la Grèce pourrait la compliquer en élargissant le théâtre des agitations que la sollicitude des Puissances s'efforce de prévenir.

Il convient donc, suivant nous, de répondre à l'appel du Cabinet d'Athènes et d'aborder sans retard les problèmes qu'il soulève. Le Congrès a entendu résoudre les difficultés qu'une frontière mal délimitée suscite périodiquement entre les deux États. La Porte a déjà reconnu, par les offres qu'elle a faites, le principe des sacrifices qu'elle doit à l'affermissement de la paix. Nous lui demandons, aujourd'hui, un pas de plus et ce que nous attendons d'elle, c'est l'exécution des résolutions consignées au 13e Protocole. Jusqu'ici, la Turquie et la Grèce ont débattu leurs intérêts sur un théâtre éloigné et dans la divergence originelle de leurs points de vue respectifs. Cette procédure est épuisée, et il y a lieu d'en rechercher une autre. Nous proposerions que les pourparlers fussent transportés à Constantinople, au centre de l'action Européenne, qui interviendrait désormais conformément aux termes mêmes de l'Article XXIV du Traité de Berlin pour faciliter le succès des négociations. Les six Puissances qui ont consenti à assumer cette tâche se concerteraient donc pour faire connaître à la Grèce que sa demande est accueillie et, par une démarche simultanée, elles inviteraient, en même temps, les parties intéressées à nommer des Plénipotentiaires pour reprendre les négociations à Constantinople. Quant à la médiation, les Cabinets en confieraient l'exercice à leurs Représentants auprès de la Sublime Porte réunis en Conférence.

Je vous prie de donner lecture de cette dépêche à son Excellence M. le Marquis de Salisbury et de lui en laisser copie. J'adresse des instructions semblables aux Agents Diplomatiques de France à Berlin, Vienne, Rome et St. Pétersbourg.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) WADDINGTON.

No. 596.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 23, 1879, 1 A.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 152, I congratulate you heartily on the conclusion of this the chief portion of your labours. Her Majesty's Government entertain a high sense of the great ability and energy you have displayed in the execution of a very difficult task.

No. 597.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 153.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 23, 1879.*

LORD DONOUGHMORE telegraphs that a review was held at Slivno on Saturday of 15,000 National Guards by Skobeleff. The latter says that he has distributed 110,000 stand of arms himself, and that the people picked up 40,000 during the war. He is urging the Bulgarians to resist, and I have no doubt exaggerates with this object.

No. 598.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 25.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 23, 1879.*

PALGRAVE reports Battenberg's election to be almost certain.

No. 599.

Mr. Mallet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 363.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 23, 1879.*

MR. MICHELL has received his exequatur, and will leave for Philippopolis to-morrow.

No. 600.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 220.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April 23, 1879.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 111 of the 9th instant, in which you state that you have communicated to Prince Gortchacow the views of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the modifications suggested by His Highness in the alternative scheme which you had been authorized to submit to him with the object of arriving at an understanding with the Russian Government upon certain points connected with the execution of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have now to convey to your Excellency the approval of Her Majesty's Government of the manner in which the instructions you have received have been carried out by your Excellency.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 601.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 221.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April 23, 1879.*

I HAVE to express to your Excellency the approval of Her Majesty's Government of the semi-official letter addressed by you to M. de Giers, and of your subsequent observations at a personal interview as reported in your despatch No. 108 of the 14th instant, relative to the projected mobilization by the Russian Administration of the so-called gymnastic societies in Eastern Roumelia, and to the expulsion from their homes in certain districts of that province of the Mohammedan inhabitants by their Christian fellow citizens.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 602.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 270.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 23, 1879.*

I INCLOSE copy of a private correspondence which I have had with Count Károlyi,* from which your Excellency will see that, in order to remove misapprehensions which seemed likely to arise from the version given by Count Schouvaloff of the negotiations of Her Majesty's Government at St. Petersburg with a view to the adoption of an alternative scheme in case of the final withdrawal of the plan of a mixed occupation of Eastern Roumelia, I communicated to his Excellency confidentially a paraphrase of my telegrams to Lord Dufferin Nos. 19 and 20 of the 8th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 603.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 206.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 23, 1879.*

I HAVE great satisfaction in offering to you my hearty congratulations on the conclusion of the most important portion of your arduous labours, and I avail myself of this opportunity to assure you that Her Majesty's Government entertain a high sense of the great ability and energy which you have displayed in the execution of a very difficult task.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 604.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(No. 61.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 23, 1879.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 55, Political, of the 5th instant.

In reply, I have to state to you that I approve the reply which Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Dálziel has, by your direction, returned to the Circular issued by the Russian Provisional Governor of Rustchuk, prescribing certain new Regulations with regard to passports which the Russian authorities have proposed to impose upon foreigners who may be domiciled or travelling in Bulgaria.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 605.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 24.)

(No. 36. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, April 12, 1879.*

IT has become known that a design is on foot on the part of a few influential people in this part of the island to form a gathering in the neighbourhood of the town for the purpose of making a demonstration against the Government because it has failed to grant the demands made by the General Assembly in its last meeting. Some day during the coming Easter week has been named for the meeting to come off, but great efforts are making by the friends of order to prevent the movement, and it is probable that it will come to nought. The people have little sympathy with the promoters of the gathering, who seem to be moved thereto by personal motives of disappointed ambition. It has been found impossible to give posts to all the candidates who were anxious for employment, and the disappointed ones are the instigators of the threatened demonstration.

* Nos. 424 and 435.

In spite of the rupture of the negotiations between the Greek Kingdom and the Porte, no hostile movement against the latter is perceptible here. Suspicion is certainly aroused by the frequent passage to and fro of well-known Chiefs between this and Athens, but as no money is known to have been distributed among the Cretans by Greek agents, there is little fear of insurrectionary projects. A lavish distribution of money, such as obtained last year at this season, would still suffice to bring about partial disturbances.

My French colleague has received from his Government the encouraging news that the Council of Ministers at Constantinople have agreed to hand over for the local expenses of the island half of the customs duties long ago promised for that purpose. Photiades Pasha intends to devote the sum thus accruing to the local Treasury to the exclusive use of the gendarmerie of this neighbourhood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 606.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, April* 23, 1879.

IT is stated officially that the Albanians have been defeated and totally dispersed, merely a few scattered bands still remaining on Servian territory.

There are however grounds for believing the above account to be highly coloured, Albanians having voluntarily withdrawn.

Pasha of Kesova has sent a most friendly telegram offering Servia troops in protection of the frontier.

(Above telegram sent to Sir H. Layard.)

No. 607.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *April* 23, 1879.

ITALIAN, German, and Austrian Commissioners are referring to their [Governments] for instructions whether the clause giving a defensible frontier applies to part of Balkan between Delikamtchik and Demirkapu.

Russia asserts that it is rigidly fixed by Treaty. I think clause applies. Commissioners are inclined to support me if authorized by their Governments, who might be moved to do so.

No. 608.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tirnova, April* 23, 1879.

SERIOUS attempts are being made by the clergy and their partisans to have the Russian Commissary elected Prince of Bulgaria, and there is danger of plot succeeding by a *coup de main* in the Assembly. A public and official notification of Russia prohibiting election of any Russian to that dignity would be very opportune, if not indeed absolutely necessary to prevent attempt; there is no time to lose.

No. 609.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.**

(No. 45.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 24, 1879, 10·45 A.M.

YESTERDAY Russian Chargé d'Affaires read me a proposal from his Government that, in order to give the Delimitation Commission the fullest possible advantage

* Also to Sir H. Elliot, Lord Odo Russell, Lord Lyons, and Sir A. Paget.

from the presence of a Russian escort, its labours ought to be terminated as early as possible, and he proposed to fix the 13th of July as the termination of their labours.

I replied that I would gladly hasten their proceedings as much as possible; that I feared they could hardly finish so soon; but I had no objection to that being fixed, if it was clearly understood that, whether finished then or not, it must be brought to a completion.

No. 610.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 24, 1879, 11·50 A.M.

I HAVE received following telegram from Mr. Palgrave:—

(Repetition of No. 608.)

No. 611.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.**

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 24, 1879, 12·15 P.M.

A QUESTION appears to have arisen in Commission of Delimitation as to the interpretation of the first proviso at the end of Article II. I understand Russian Commissioner to contend that a portion of the Balkan line near Demikapu is not subject to that proviso, but is to be drawn without regard to necessities of defence for Turkey.

Her Majesty's Government contend strongly that the proviso applies to all the Balkan frontier of Eastern Roumelia without exception.

Pray press this view on Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 612.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 24.)

(No. 50.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April* 24, 1879.

THEY are ready to accept your amended instruction to Commission, but want to add that if a question should arise as to any proposed deviation to the north, acquiring an aggressive rather than a defensive character, there should be a reference to the Cabinets.

I have simply declined communicating so unreasonable an amendment to you, and have told M. de Giers I was sure Her Majesty's Government would not yield on this point.

No. 613.

Major Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April* 24, 1879.

INTERVIEW with my Turkish colleague at Batoum. At the meetings before my arrival he expressed views as to trace of frontier similar to my own, but he was overruled by the three Pashas who are attached to the Commission as consultative members. They should be removed. One is philo-Russ, the others indifferent to the result. Russian cunning enough to keep no Protocol; consequently there is no record of opinion of individual members to guide Turkish Government in its decision.

Caratheodory asked me to draw up a Memorandum on project of frontier submitted by the Commission to the Porte, and I have done so. Project is entirely in favour of Russia. Turkey loses 100 square miles more than she should. Principle of a diver-

* Also to Sir H. Elliot, Lord Lyons, and Sir A. Paget.

gence from the Treaty of Berlin is involved, and I trust Turkish Government will reject submitted [? project] as a violation thereof.

(Explanatory despatch left by messenger yesterday.)

No. 614.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 24, 1879, 7·40 P.M.

YOURS, 50.

I quite approve of your language.

No. 615.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Her Majesty's Embassies.

My Lord,
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 24, 1879.

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires read to me on the 22nd instant a proposal from his Government that, in order to give to the Commission for the demarcation of the Bulgarian frontier the fullest possible advantage from the presence of a Russian escort, it would be desirable that the operations in the field should be brought to a close as soon as possible. M. Bartholomei mentioned the 13th July as the date which his Government proposed to fix for the termination of the labours of the Commission.

I said, in reply, that Her Majesty's Government would gladly do what lay with them to hasten the proceedings of the Commissioners as much as possible. I feared, however, that they could scarcely finish their task within the period specified. Still, I said, we should have no objection to that date being fixed upon, provided always that it was clearly understood that, whether finished or not by that time, the work of the Commission must be brought to a completion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 616.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 573.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 24, 1879.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 289 of the 3rd instant, inclosing a copy of the instructions you have addressed to Lieutenant Chermside for his guidance whilst accompanying the Special Commission which has been appointed by the Porte to inquire into the condition of the Vilayet of Aleppo and the neighbouring districts.

I have now to state to you that I entirely approve these instructions, as well as your intention to communicate a copy of them to the Grand Vizier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 617.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Wilson.

(No. 1. Political.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 24, 1879.

THE Queen, having been graciously pleased to appoint you to be Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia, it is desirable that you should start for Constantinople, where you will be able to make arrangements to proceed to the scene of your duties.

The Convention between Great Britain and Turkey of the 4th of June last has given to this country a special interest in the good government and welfare of the populations of Asiatic Turkey, whom Her Majesty has engaged, under certain circumstances, to defend from foreign annexation. It is with a view to contribute, as far as lies in their power, to the improvement and success of Ottoman administration in these

countries that Her Majesty's Government have decided on making the appointment which has now been conferred upon you.

Your principal duty, and that of the officers appointed to assist you, will, therefore, be to inquire into the condition of the various classes of the population within your Consular district, assisting the Turkish authorities with your advice, and with any information you may be able to collect of a nature to be useful to them, pointing out the means by which economy may be secured and the administration simplified or rendered more efficient, and noting and remonstrating against all cases of oppression or corruption on the part of the executive and judiciary which may come to your knowledge. Where, in your judgment, a case exists for the intervention of the Central Government, you will report the matter to Her Majesty's Government and to the Embassy at Constantinople, in order that proper representations may be made to the Porte.

In many parts of your district the formation of an efficient public force for the repression of brigandage is a primary necessity for all material progress. You should do your best to urge upon the officials the importance of this measure, and to encourage all efforts that may be made for the purpose.

You have already been supplied with copies of the correspondence which has passed between Her Majesty's Government and the Porte as to the reforms to be introduced in the Asiatic dominions of the Sultan, in fulfilment of the engagement taken by His Majesty in Article I of the Convention of the 4th of June. It is intended that you should watch the introduction of the measures proposed by the Porte, doing what is in your power to ensure their proper and faithful application, and making any suggestions which may occur to you for increasing their efficiency in practice.

I leave it to you to draw up, on your arrival at Constantinople, a scheme and rough estimate for your preliminary journey of inquiry in Asia Minor. Subject to any subsequent alterations which experience may suggest, I am disposed to approve the plan of tour sketched out in your Memorandum of the 31st ultimo, and the arrangements suggested therein, as to your eventual place of residence and those of the Vice-Consuls under you.

You will receive from the officers of Her Majesty's Embassy all the information and assistance that it is in their power to afford you, and Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum and the Consular officers at the various ports situated on the shores of your district will be instructed to facilitate your inquiries and to communicate with you on all matters likely to interest you.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No 618.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Trotter.

(No. 6. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 24, 1879.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your confidential information, copy of an instruction which I have addressed to Lieut.-Colonel Wilson, Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia, as to the general nature of his duties and those of the officers who are to serve under him as Vice-Consuls.* I also inclose copy of a confidential Memorandum drawn up by Colonel Wilson, and specifying the manner in which he proposes to proceed. The suggestions contained in this Memorandum have received generally my approval.

You will perceive that it is intended to draw up a general scheme for a military report on Asia Minor, with special reference to the defence of the new frontier. A copy of this scheme will be forwarded to you by Colonel Wilson, who will indicate the points lying within the sphere of your observation which require examination.

I have to request that you will do what is in your power to collect any information of this nature that may be desired, and that you will communicate it to Colonel Wilson, to whom you should also forward copies of whatever reports you may make bearing on the military situation.

It will be desirable that you should correspond freely with Colonel Wilson upon other matters likely to interest him, and should act in concert with him generally in all questions in which you are jointly concerned.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* No. 617.

No. 619.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.**

(No. 558.)
Foreign Office, April 24, 1879.

My Lord,

IT appears that a question has arisen in the Commission of Delimitation as to the interpretation to be given to the first proviso at the end of Article II.

As I understand, the Russian Commissioner's contention is that a portion of the Balkan line near Demikapu is not subject to the proviso in question, but is to be drawn without regard to the necessities of defence for Turkey.

Her Majesty's Government are decidedly of opinion that the proviso applies to all the Balkan frontier of Eastern Roumelia without exception.

I have to beg that your Excellency will press this view of the question on M. Waddington.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 620.

M. Bartholomei to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 25.)

Chesham House, le 12/13 Avril, 1879.

M. le Marquis,

JE suis chargé par mon Gouvernement de vous faire une communication par rapport à la délimitation de Khotour.

Afin d'éviter tout retard et ne voulant pas déranger votre Excellence par un nouvel entretien, j'ai l'honneur de lui transmettre ci-près la substance de ce que j'aurais eu à lui communiquer.

Vous aurez l'obligeance de me faire part plus tard de la réponse que vous voudriez donner.

Me référant à ce que je vous ai soumis hier je me permettrai d'ajouter que la communication présente, quoique faite par écrit, tient lieu cette fois-ci d'une communication verbale et c'est en ce sens que vous aurez la bonté de la traiter.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. BARTHOLOMEI.

Inclosure in No. 620.

Memorandum.

LA Commission de Délimitation qui doit tracer la nouvelle frontière Asiatique, avec l'assistance des Délégués Anglais, à partir de Medjinguert, devra également s'occuper de la cession de Khotour à la Perse, conformément à l'Article LX du Traité de Berlin.

Il semblerait utile de convenir avec le Gouvernement Anglais de la base commune sur laquelle devra se poursuivre l'exécution de cette dernière partie de sa tâche.

L'Article LX du Traité de Berlin stipule que "la Sublime Porte cède à la Perse la ville et le district de Khotour, tel qu'il a été déterminé par la Commission Mixte Anglo-Russe pour la délimitation de la frontière de la Turquie et de la Perse."

La Commission dont il s'agit a siégé à Constantinople en 1875, mais a dû suspendre ses travaux à cause de la guerre sans les avoir terminés. Elle devait rétablir par rapport à Khotour et son district le *statu quo* territorial de 1846 conformément au Traité d'Erzeroum.

Il semblerait par conséquent résulter de l'esprit et de la lettre du Traité de Berlin que la nouvelle Commission de Délimitation devrait tout, comme celle de Constantinople, baser son travail sur les stipulations du Traité d'Erzeroum, ayant en vue l'état des choses en 1846 quant à la circonscription territoriale du district de Khotour.

L'Ambassade de Russie à Londres est chargée de s'entendre à ce sujet avec le Gouvernement Britannique afin d'éviter tout malentendu éventuel.

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* Similar despatches were addressed to Sir A. Paget, Lord Odo Russell, and Sir Henry Elliot.

No. 621.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 41.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, April 24, 1879.*

I CALLED on M. Depretis shortly after my return to-day. His Excellency is gratified by my note of the 20th April, and agrees in views of Her Majesty's Government respecting Eastern Roumelia.

With reference to your telegram of to-day, a similar communication respecting termination of the labours of the Commission by the 13th July has likewise been made by Russian Ambassador here. The answer was that Italian Commissioner had already been instructed to hasten as much as possible, and this will be repeated, but Italian Government do not feel competent to pronounce upon the possibility of finishing by any particular day.

No. 622.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 42.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, April 24, 1879.*

I SPOKE to M. Depretis to-day about Egypt, and did not conceal from him the strong impression entertained in England that to intrigues of Italian Consul-General was largely due the Khedive's recent *coup d'état*.

It is impossible to conceive a more absolute and positive denial than that M. Depretis gave to this, begging me to transmit it immediately to your Lordship. He said that his instructions to their Agent had been to be extremely reserved and prudent, and to do nothing which could in any way thwart the policy of England and France, but more especially of England, with whom, his Excellency reiterated in even stronger terms than he has yet employed, it is his desire to act in all matters of interest in the Mediterranean. He said that he was convinced that M. de Martino had not departed from his instructions, and attributed the accusation to some personal feeling on the part of others.

In regard to Greek frontier question, M. Depretis said he had received no communication from France. His wish is to give Greece an accession of territory, but in such a way that it may be a source of strength instead of weakness to her, and of peace instead of trouble to the populations. His Excellency disclaimed any distrust of Austria, and even expressed reliance upon her declarations, stating that his views were dictated solely out of a desire to promote future good relations between Greece and Turkey.

No. 623.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 156.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 25, 1879.*

LORD DUFFERIN telegraphs that it is rumoured attempt will be made to induce Rhodope insurgents to advance into the Maritza plain. The Russian troops are being steadily withdrawn and replaced by Bulgarian militia, one or two battalions of which have already gone to the Rhodope.

No. 624.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 365.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 25, 1879.*

I VENTURE to recommend that, with a view to place Major Clarke on the same footing as his fellow Commissioners, he should be allowed local and temporary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

No. 625.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 366. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 25, 1879.*

COUNT ZICHY informs me that the Sultan has sent him pressing messages to cancel Secret Article appended to Convention, by which an engagement is entered into, with regard to garrisoning of Novi-Bazar, that aggression from the exterior shall be repelled by forces of both Empires. Count Zichy has stated his inability to accede to request, but has said that on reaching Vienna he will submit it to his Government, and support it. Minister for Foreign Affairs has informed Count Zichy that the Sultan is in extreme anxiety regarding this Article, but neither he nor Count Zichy can account for it, as the Article was framed entirely with a view to be agreeable to the Sultan, and imposes an obligation from which the Austrian Government will be glad to be relieved. Count Zichy has requested me to keep this matter an absolute secret until he can explain it personally at Vienna. He leaves to-day, and hopes to arrive on Tuesday next. The Minister for Foreign Affairs has told him that the Sultan has threatened to send Circular protesting against the Secret Article if it is maintained.

No. 626.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 25, 4 P.M.)

(No. 68.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 25, 1879.*

I HAVE told Count Andrassy the answer your Lordship returned to the proposal that the Frontier Commission should finish its work by the 13th July, and he quite concurs in it.

He wishes the work to be proceeded with with the greatest possible despatch, but said that it must be completed, whether at the date indicated or not, and he especially insisted that the Russian evacuation must not be dependent upon its completion, or retarded for the purpose of furnishing an escort to the Commission or upon any other pretext.

No. 627.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 69. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 25, 1879.*

[Group wrong.] Aleko Pasha has arrived here. He professes not to wish to see Count Andrassy, and as this is not his natural route to Constantinople from Paris, it is not improbable he has come to meet Count Schouvaloff.

I can guarantee accuracy of report of his language to an old acquaintance. He said that of all Powers the only one that had behaved well to Turkey since peace was Russia; that the Treaty of Berlin was much worse than the Treaty of San Stefano, for the division of Bulgaria was an absurdity and an impossibility. England had behaved atrociously, and could not have obtained Cyprus [group wrong] if a set of fools had not been at the head of affairs at Constantinople, and he had not gone to London because he would have compromised himself by his language.

He spoke with bitterness against Count Andrassy, and of the proceedings of

Austria about Bosnia, adding his conviction that she meant to push on to Salonica, though this would not be tolerated by Russia, and would cause a war between them.

In reply to a question whether he was to be elected Prince of Bulgaria, he merely answered, "That may possibly be."

My informant, who had no prejudice against Aleko, now considers him entirely in the hands of Russia. His report of the conversation may be accepted without reserve.

No. 628.

The Marquis of Salisbury to General Hamley.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 25, 1879, 2·30 P.M.*

YOUR despatch No. 6.

I can see nothing in the Treaty which would authorize the occupation in time of tranquillity by Turkish troops of towns in the interior of Eastern Roumelia.

The combination of Servia and Bulgaria for an offensive movement is at present not at all probable, except as part of a general attack supported by Russia. As long as Austria is friendly, she may be trusted to keep Servia quiet.

No. 629.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 26.)

(No. 27. Political.)
My Lord, *Beyrout, April 12, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch, No. 35, and its inclosures, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary at Constantinople, reporting on the proceedings of Midhat Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 629.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Beyrout, April 12, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Blanche, reporting on the proceedings of Midhat Pasha during his Highness' stay at Tripoli.

Midhat Pasha arrived at Beyrout from Tripoli by the French mail-steamer on the 27th ultimo, and left for Damascus on the 4th instant; during his stay here he was much occupied with projects of works of public utility, amongst which the most important was the creation of a harbour at Beyrout, which I hardly think can be realised on account of the great expense it would entail.

His Highness informed me that the enrolling of volunteers for service in the gendarmerie and police, reported in my despatch No. 27 of the 15th ultimo, was progressing satisfactorily, and that about one-third of the recruits were non-Mussulmans.

While at Beyrout the Governor-General was much exercised by several demands from the Porte for the immediate transmission to Constantinople of large sums of money, whereas the Treasury of the vilayet is entirely empty, and is unable to furnish the means for providing the necessary expenses to carry on the administration until the harvest will allow the usual taxes to be collected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 629.

Acting Vice-Consul Blanche to Consul-General Eldridge.

Tripoli, le 5 Avril, 1879.

M. le Consul-Général,

LE récent séjour de son Altesse Midhat Pacha à Tripoli ne pouvait manquer de produire dans le pays une grande sensation, et d'y laisser des traces qu'il importe de signaler. Depuis quelque temps il était attendu, avec espérance par les uns, avec appréhension par les autres. Il arriva précédé de sa grande réputation de justicier et de réformateur; et dans le monde officiel surtout l'inquiétude était grande, car on ignorait par quels moyens il allait redonner quelque vie à l'édifice vermoulu de l'administration. Les Musulmans de la ville étaient particulièrement anxieux parce qu'ils sont divisés en deux partis violemment hostiles. Cette division déjà ancienne s'est particulièrement envenimée à l'occasion des grands scandales de conscription que je vous ai fait connaître en temps et lieu. L'un des deux partis a pour Chef principal le puissant Dervicho Effendi Chambour qui, par ses rares capacités, a toujours su se tenir à la tête des affaires, et se rendre, on peut dire, indispensable, sous tous les Gouverneurs qui se sont succédés depuis plus de quinze ans. L'autre parti, plus populaire, a pour Chef l'ancien Cadi de Tripoli, Ahmed Effendi Sultan, honnête homme, ne manquant pas de valeur, mais ruiné, endetié, et rendu impuissant par la misère. Le premier acte de Midhat Pacha, dès le troisième jour de son arrivée, et après avoir mis en présence et entendu les deux rivaux, fut de leur faire à chacun une visite, au grand étonnement de la ville. Cette condescendance ne satisfit aucun parti. Les Chrétiens en furent eux-mêmes blessés, non à cause des préditections qu'ils peuvent avoir dans cette querelle des Ulémas, mais par la raison que son Altesse, après ces visites inattendues et quelques autres aux principaux Musulmans, ne crut pas devoir rendre en personne la visite aux Evêques. Toutes les classes de la population se sont trouvées de la sorte froissées et mécontentes au début. Midhat Pacha, malgré son grand prestige, et peut-être à cause de ce prestige même, fut jugé, surtout par les Musulmans, avec une sévérité passionnée, qui ne l'épargna même pas dans sa vie privée. Il n'est pas douteux qu'il n'y ait eu dans les jugements de l'aveuglement et de l'injustice, comme il s'en trouve toujours dans toute explosion de passions populaires. Je ne saurais dire si finalement cette effervescence a laissé des traces fâcheuses dans les esprits, mais il est certain qu'elle ne fut pas de longue durée.

Midhat Pacha ne tarda pas à convaincre la population qu'il avait à cœur l'amélioration naturelle du pays, autrement qu'en paroles et en projets. Il fit, sous ses yeux, commencer et presque achever 4 kilom. d'une fort belle route carrossable destinée à relier Tripoli avec les villes de Homs et de Hamm. Il l'imposa aux habitants selon le système de la prestation ou corvée. Personne ne se plaignit que le fardeau fût trop lourd, et l'impulsion donnée est telle qu'il y a tout à espérer que cette œuvre importante s'achèvera vite et bien.

Le Valy a en outre conçu le dessein de relier la ville à la marine par un tramway dont la longueur serait d'environ 3,500 mètres. Il constitua à cet effet, parmi les indigènes, une société par actions au capital de £ T. 10,000. Il se présente à coup sûr beaucoup d'objections contre une entreprise si peu en rapport avec les besoins actuels de la localité. Mais Midhat Pacha semble être toujours sous l'empire de la grande idée qu'il a conçue au temps où il était Valy de Bagdad, et qui consistait à faire de Tripoli la tête de ligne du fameux chemin de fer de l'Euphrate. Son premier acte en arrivant au Grand Vizirat, en 1872, fut d'envoyer ici des ingénieurs pour étudier la trace. Son trop court passage au pouvoir ne lui permit pas de donner suite à son projet favori. Mais l'idée resta, et il est visible qu'il en médite toujours la réalisation.

Ce n'est pas seulement cette sollicitude toute spéciale pour les intérêts Tripolitains qui fit promptement passer la fâcheuse impression des premiers jours. Il montra aussi qu'il avait en vue la bonne administration de la justice. Il a fait arrêter une trentaine de bandits inculpés dans les divers crimes commis depuis deux ans à Akkar. Il en reste encore six à prendre pour lesquels il a donné un temps déterminé aux agents locaux, qui sont tous leurs parents ou leurs alliés. Il les aura pourvu qu'il le veut. C'est un de ces cas en effet, où vouloir c'est pouvoir, et il y avait longtemps que la volonté était absente de notre autorité locale. Son Altesse a fait l'instruction du dernier meurtre commis à Akkar. La sentence n'a pas encore été rendue, mais les assassins seront pour sûr condamnés au moins à quinze ans de galères. Peut-être y aura-t-il une peine capitale. Après cette affaire, il en viendra une autre plus ancienne, et que je vous ai fait connaître comme la précédente; c'est celle des deux Chrétiens assassinés dont les

cadavres ont été amenés de dix lieues de distance à Tripoli, comme pièces de conviction. Jamais notre autorité locale n'avait cherché même à inquiéter un seul des assassins. Le Valy les a tous arrêtés sauf les six qui seront pris avant peu. Bien que les peines n'aient encore été prononcées dans aucun cas on s'aperçoit néanmoins que la justice fonctionne et l'espérance est reconnue à cette malheureuse population d'Akkar dont l'existence n'était plus tolérable.

Pour mon compte personnel je m'associe volontier à leur espérance l'impression que m'a laissé son Altesse Midhat Pacha est des plus favorables. J'ai eu l'honneur de la voir souvent; je n'ai eu qu'à me louer de sa bienveillante courtoisie et de sa confiante familiarité. Le mal régnant dans cette administration locale dépassait à coup sur toutes les idées qu'il avait pu en faire. Il n'y avait pas à attendre de lui qu'il réparât sur l'heure un mal si profondément enraciné. Il y prendra du temps. Mais il n'en faut pas moins reconnaître que son séjour à Tripoli qui a duré vingt-deux jours a incontestablement produit d'heureux effets, et il est permis d'en attendre de meilleurs encore tant que durera l'impulsion qu'il a donné aux affaires.

Je suis, &c.
(Signé) BLANCHE.

No. 630.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 26.)

(No. 28. Political.)

My Lord, *Beyrout, April 13*, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 23 of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch No 36 and its inclosure, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary at Constantinople, reporting the forwarding of a Petition to the French Ambassador against the return of Rustem Pasha to the Lebanon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 630.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Beyrout, April 13*, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy and translation of a Petition which has been addressed by certain inhabitants of Mount Lebanon to his Excellency the French Ambassador, protesting against the return of Rustem Pasha.

Although I do not attach the slightest importance to this document, yet I consider it my duty to report the circumstance for your information.

Nasr-Eddin Abdul-Melek, whose signature is the first, is a dismissed, and, consequently, a discontented functionary of the Lebanon Government; the other signatures of the same name are those of his immediate relations. The Khouris and other inhabitants of Reshmeya have been discontented for some years, owing to the fact that the Mudir of that district not being a member of the family of Khouri, or even a native of the village, as they consider he ought to be.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 630.

Petition presented to French Ambassador against return of Rustem Pasha to Mount Lebanon.

DANS le passé des plaintes nombreuses et des requêtes repétées de la part de toutes les communautés ont opiniâtrement appelé l'attention du Grand Vizirat et celle de votre Excellence ainsi que des Représentants des autres Puissances, ses collègues,

sur l'absolutisme et le despotisme de Rustem Pacha. Mais au moment où nous avons acquis la conviction qu'il allait être éloigné de nous, et où nous nous préparions à adresser à votre Excellence des remercîments sur sa destitution et la nomination d'une autre personne, nous avons appris que son Excellence Rustem Pacha annonce à ses employés son prochain retour au Liban, nouvelle qui a troublé nos esprits en général et qui va nous livrer avec tout le pays en proie au péril d'un désespoir complet; nous avons donc cru devoir adresser la présente requête à votre Excellence pour protester contre une pareille éventualité et solliciter la destitution de Rustem Pacha. Si nos plaintes paraissent suspects à votre Excellence malgré les preuves produites à l'appui, qu'une enquête soit opérée là-dessus, et qu'en attendant Rustem Pacha soit retenu à Constantinople.

D'ailleurs la générosité de votre Excellence n'est pas capable de nous traiter contrairement à la justice et au règlement et de permettre la ruine d'un pays par amour pour un homme qui a pour principe le pouvoir arbitraire, et que nous ne pouvons tolérer en aucune manière.

Nous avons, &c.
(Suivent les signatures.)

No. 631.

Vice-Consul Jago to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 26.)

(No. 9. Political.)

Damascus, April 14, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy of my despatch of this day's date to Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary at Constantinople, reporting upon Midhat Pasha and his powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 631.

Vice-Consul Jago to Mr. Malet.

Damascus, April 14, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency the following observations upon Midhat Pasha, and his powers to effect reforms:—

I will premise by saying that administrative anarchy and corruption in Damascus, and in Inland Syria in general, have been ever rampant, and have been simply increased and not created by the effects produced in the country by the late war.

As to the success of efforts in recent times, and under exceptionally favourable circumstances, to improve matters of well-intentioned and liberal-minded Governors-General, I will cite the rule, between 1865 and 1872, of Mahommed Rashid Pasha, afterwards Minister of Foreign Affairs, a man of European education, and who, owing to the powerful protection of Aali Pasha, then Grand Vizier, the latter's paramount influence with the Sultan and with Ministers generally enjoyed almost viceregal powers.

Rashid Pasha had, later, power to appoint Mutessarifs; he exercised great authority in all administrative departments, no less than in those of finance and justice. He enjoyed great popularity among the native Christians, foreigners, and the Consular body generally, all of whose good opinion he courted, and he repressed at once cases of oppression and punished misconduct when prominently brought to his notice. He, however, quitted Syria without seeking to effect any permanent, or indeed temporary, general improvement in any branch of its civil administration, alleging in defence the impossibility of finding competent men, and the futility of causing the dismissal of officials who would in all probability be replaced by others equally bad.

His successors between 1872 and 1877, some of them Turkey's ablest men, and equally honest, but with naturally far inferior powers, left the country as they found it, finding during their brief official sojourn sufficient employment for their energies in the onerous duties entailed by the government of the most difficult province in Turkey, with its twenty or thirty different sects, and with the intrigue and corruption which, owing to ages of misgovernment, had become chronic.

They redressed the grievances of those whose complaints were powerfully supported, and left the bulk of the people to scramble for justice as best they could.

During the war Syria fell to the rule of Izzet Pasha, the Commander-in-chief, who, being professedly ignorant of all matters of civil administration, allowed the slight barrier between what I may call comparative and superlative corruption to fall; and, while the peace of the country was preserved by his watchfulness, the entire civil Government lapsed into the hands of totally uncontrolled and practically unpaid mercenary officials.

Djevdet Pasha's short career of office, and the wholesale peculation openly laid to his charge, naturally did not tend to improve matters, and when Midhat Pasha arrived in December last his Highness was, as might have been expected, taken aback by the prospect before him.

His advent caused great hopes of relief to be entertained by the bulk of the population, owing to his former renown and later character as a reformer; with a proportionate amount of dread among the corrupt official world, based upon accounts of the severity of his rule.

Upon examining his powers he found that they were in no way superior to those of his predecessors. He found that the Mutessarifs were appointed by the Grand Vizier; the President of the Damascus Tribunal of First Instance by the Minister of Justice; the Cadis, or Presidents of all other Medjlisses throughout the country—whether civil, criminal, or administrative—by the Sheikh-ul-Islam; the Presidents of Commercial Courts by the Minister of Commerce; the Defterdar-Effendy, or Accountant-General of the Province, by the Minister of Finance; and the Police and Gendarmerie by the Minister of Police; all of whom exercised more or less control over, and held direct communication with, their provincial subordinates in matters of detail. He found, of course, that every suggestion he had to make and every improvement he sought to introduce had to be referred to Constantinople to be treated by the heads of the respective Ministries; and that, too, with little chance, owing to much more important business in hand, of getting any decision. He found, also, the Treasury impoverished, the employés paid in practically worthless caimé; besides the estimated net revenue for the ensuing year (£ T. 555,000) burdened with charges which properly should be borne by other than Syrian revenue. Thus the total expenses of the Haj Caravan from Constantinople to Mecca viâ Damascus, averaging say £ T. 100,000 a-year, had been thrown, three years ago, upon the Damascus Treasury, instead of the proportion of such expenses (£ T. 40,000) between Damascus and Mecca, formerly locally borne. Again, the entire charge for the 5th Corps d'Armée of Arabistan, with its military circumscription, embracing the vilayets of Syria, Aleppo, Adana, and the Leiva of Palestine, was permanently thrown, six years since, upon the Damascus Treasury, instead of, as before, the proportion of one-third; thus entailing a yearly charge of some £ T. 250,000. The revenue is again charged with the payment of the annual Lebanon financial deficit, say £ T. 35,000. A balance thus remained available for cost of Civil Administration, gendarmerie, police, public works, education, and contingencies, of £ T. 270,000, a sum insufficient, even if left intact by Constantinople, to effect reforms of any kind.

Such being the case, and hampered still more as he alleged by the system of centralization at Constantinople, he elaborated a scheme of reforms which he submitted to the Sublime Porte in January last.

The chief features of his scheme were the imposition of a fixed land-tax and poll-tax, similar to the system prevailing in the Lebanon; and the abolition of the present Mecca Caravan, with its annual cost of £ T. 100,000, and its transmission by sea direct from Constantinople to Jeddah.

This scheme he believed would raise the revenue to £ T. 1,000,000, thus permitting him to double the meagre salaries of civil employés, and which offer a direct incentive to corruption, besides providing for other necessary wants. His proposed Budget stood thus:—

	£ T.		£ T.
Revenue	1,000,000	Expenditure—	
		Civil Administration (10 per cent.) ..	100,000
		Gendarmerie	75,000
		Contingencies	15,000
		Lebanon deficit	35,000
		5th Corps d'Armée	250,000
		Public Works	125,000
		Balance available for Constantinople .	400,000
	1,000,000		1,000,000

Taking into account the manner in which the Government is mercilessly robbed by collusion and by dishonest officials, and the extra taxation forced out of the unprotected, who form the bulk of the population, I am of opinion that this estimated increase of revenue, with improved administration, is not overstated.

The rejection, however, by Constantinople of the proposed land-tax, which formed the keystone of the fabric, and the dissent to the abolition of the Haj Caravan, naturally caused the whole scheme to collapse, and to render necessary some attempt to make the best out of the original balance available out of the revenue, viz., £ T. 270,000; and the Official Budget for the present year thus stands as follows:—

	£ T.		£ T.
Net Revenue	555,000	Expenditure—	
		Mecca Haj	120,000
		Lebanon	35,000
		Gendarmerie, police, and prisons ..	120,000
		Civil employés	35,000
		5th Corps d'Armée	245,000
	555,000		555,000

As regards the reorganization of the gendarmerie and police, permission has been given to form a nucleus of such to serve as a sample for future development by the enrolment of a few men, Moslem and Christians, at adequate wages.

The salaries of civil employés is, unfortunately, not capable of increase. The cost of the whole Civil Service, namely, civil employés, gendarmerie and police, is estimated, as will be seen, at £ T. 155,000, a sum inferior even to that for the years 1876 and 1877, the average of which was £ T. 230,000; but it must be said, however, that owing to the incessant demands from Constantinople the latter were seldom or ever paid in recent past years except in depreciated caïmé.

As regards the present Budget, it will be seen that no margin, as usual, is left for Constantinople, which, however, continues, as in the past, to call for money, to the detriment, at least, of the civil administration of the country.

The charge for the Mecca Caravan, £ T. 120,000, is, I believe, overstated by £ T. 30,000, which would afford me some relief if the savings in any particular branch of the service were available for general and local improvement.

At the present moment the Treasury is embarrassed to find £ T. 20,000 to pay to the Lebanon Government; to find £ T. 40,000 drawn upon it by Constantinople against the sheep tax; and by the necessity of beginning, thus early, to scrape together the large sum needed for the Haj Caravan, the departure of which admits of no delay. The military authorities are procuring supplies on credit, failing payments from the empty Civil Treasury; and any immediate relief proceeding from any important branch of taxation, such as the tithes, is not yet available. Thus, while present financial embarrassments preclude any immediate reforms in the Civil Service by increase of pay to civil employés or by the reform of the gendarmerie and police, the prospect of being able to pay them even at the present meagre rate belongs to the future.

So much for the present state of local finance, and the important interests which so largely depend upon it.

It shows that as pecuniary aid in support of reform is not possible for some time to come, the only powers left to check or correct administrative or judicial abuses are those of supervision and control over officials, which, as Midhat Pasha alleges, are exceedingly small, owing to the centralization at Constantinople. This system leads to the incessant complaints of His Highness, that while power is thus taken out of his hands he is made responsible in the eyes of the world as Chief of the Executive for the shortcomings of officials with whose appointments he has nothing to do, and for defects in local detail which can only be remedied by reference to Constantinople. He asserts that the recent powers accorded to him by the Sultan are simply powers to appoint Mutesarifs, and nothing else.

His Highness, while admitting the right of the Ministers to exercise patronage over provincial posts in their respective departments, insists that, although the general control is naturally delegated to him, he is not responsible for any ill direction of this power of patronage, and cites as an example of this theory the position of the Prefect of a French Department who rules and controls generally without being called upon to exercise his paramount authority in police or judicial matters, which are carried on exclusively by the local officials responsible in these branches of the Administration to the Ministry which appoints them and regulates detail.

No doubt the position thus tried to be assumed is natural enough in one holding

office neither for personal advantages nor in the hope of future advancement, but its anomaly, when considered with reference to local complaints, and the necessity it would involve, if conceded, of referring everything to Constantinople to be treated there, is too obvious to need comment.

Although the power to appoint Mutesarifs is conceded to him (that of naming Kaïmakams he considers himself, of course, entitled to), the appointments of Cadis or Presidents of the Civil, Criminal, and Administrative Medjlisses throughout the country is left in the hands of the Sheikh-ul-Islam. With reference to all those Courts whose powers are so great that they practically govern the land, I may mention that justice in them is, generally speaking, an object of traffic, the different sects therein represented as members making common cause with each other on the principle of reciprocity to this end; the dominant element, the Moslem, taking the largest share.

The local members, whether Moslem or Christian, are elected nominally by the voice of the people, but practically by those occult influences which pervade everything in Syria.

The Cadi presides over them by virtue of his office, and in accordance with the Regulations, and is thus responsible for a system which fleeces alike the Government and the people. The Mutesarif or Kaïmakam either shares in the profits or winks hopelessly and helplessly at practices, chronic and traditional, of those who have it in their power, if he shows any independence of character, to intrigue and get up complaints against him, if not with the same success which obtained before Midhat Pasha's advent, at least to his possible discomfiture in view of the intrigue and corruption which have become a science in the country.

I have long since informed His Highness that, in my opinion, the amount of intelligence displayed by Medjlisses and others in thwarting justice for personal benefit shows that capacity, at least, is not wanted in Syria, but some supervision, and the inclination of these misplaced energies in a proper direction. That this supervision could be exercised by a few travelling inspectors in his confidence, the moral effects alone of whose visits would be immense, especially if it should be seen that cases of misconduct, when substantiated, were followed by the instant dismissal of the whole body, as in the case of Baalbeck in January last.

This, however, like other reforms, belong to the future, and to the possibility of finding impartial men, and of paying them.

Meanwhile, the Medjlisses are left without any control other than that resulting from the moral presence of Midhat Pasha, a pressure which, so far as I can judge, is generally salutary, but not to any very appreciable extent, especially when it is considered that the Medjliss of Damascus is only 20 paces from His Highness' room.

The moral effects of supervision in controlling the misconduct of Medjlisses and subordinate officials, and its permanent efficacy upon the general administration, in spite of constant changes of the head officials, is sufficiently exemplified in the cases of Beyrout, Jerusalem, and Palestine in general (to say nothing of the Lebanon), which are, so to say, cases as regards prosperity and protection in the desert of anarchy which Syria at present presents to view; and which is produced by the presence of a powerful Consular body watching incessantly over the interests of the comparatively large foreign population under its care, thus benefiting alike its own subjects, and indirectly, and to a large extent, the native population around.

In Palestine, where I recently found its efficacy as apparent, if not more so, than in Beyrout, Raouf Pasha, the present Governor, bitterly complained to me of the abusive practices of his Medjlisses, which, however, while preying upon the unprotected, granted immediate redress, with almost obsequious readiness, to the interests of those upon whom, fortunately, the wealth and development of the land depend.

Although any increase in the present handful of foreign subjects to be found in Damascus and in Inland Syria, and the moral pressure which the protection of their interests would bring to bear upon the corrupt official world, is necessarily a question of time, still it would seem to show that such supervision can be exercised by the authorities, and its power acknowledged to the general good without much change in the "personnel."

No doubt the power to appoint Cadis would add enormously to the efforts for the general good of Midhat Pasha, but it may well be supposed that such power will not readily be conceded by the Sheik-ul-Islam, who now appoints them, and who instructs them, as he complains, without any reference to him. A glaring case of misconduct or incapacity would doubtless lead to the dismissal, after reference to Constantinople, of the defaulter, but with no guarantee for his replacement by a superior man.

It may also be equally presumed that the present patronage of Ministers, and their

interference in provincial details, will never be conferred upon, or surrendered to any appreciable extent to, a Provincial Governor-General, even to one otherwise politically circumstanced than Midhat Pasha.

Even Rashid Pasha, with his almost Viceregal powers, never attempted openly to encroach upon the attributes of Ministers, although it must be said that the all-powerful protection he enjoyed at Constantinople practically gave him such liberty, and of which he often availed himself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 632.

Captain Anderson, R.E., to Lord Tenterden.—(Received April 26.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, April 26, 1879.*

WITH reference to my letter of the 16th instant, requesting that application be made to the First Commissioner of Works for two fair plans of that portion of the Servian boundary which was marked out and sketched last autumn by the International Commission, to be photozincographed at Southampton, and fifty copies of each to be supplied, I have now the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received these copies, and have made payment for the same, amounting to *5l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*, to the Office of Works, charging the same in my accounts.

I beg to forward herewith a roll containing eight copies of each of the maps (16 sheets in all) for your Lordship's disposal.

I propose to take the remaining copies with me to Servia, for distribution among the Commissioners of the Servian Boundary Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. ANDERSON, *Captain, R.E.,*
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

No. 633.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 26.)

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 25, 1879.*

PRINCE GORTCHACOW has proposed to telegraph to the Emperor suggesting acceptance of majority principle according to your form of words, if the following sentence is introduced:—

"It shall be strictly prescribed to Commission that northern deviations shall only take place in view of defence of Turkey, and not open valleys giving access to Bulgaria."

No. 634.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 26.)

(No. 53.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 25, 1879.*

PRINCE GORTCHACOW ridicules the idea of Russian Commissioner's candidature for Bulgaria. Russia has advised the Bulgarians to choose somebody who would be acceptable to the Powers, which a Russian subject would not be.

No. 635.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 26.)

(No. 54.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 25, 1879.*

OBRESKOFF starts for Constantinople with amicable letter from Emperor to Sultan. He is to exort Roumeliotes, as from the Emperor, to submit to the new régime. Prince Gortchacow says that two proclamations in a similar sense will be issued to Roumelia and Bulgaria.

No. 636.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 26.)

(No. 56.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 26, 1879.*

WITH reference to latter part of your telegram No. 39, if I find Russian Government object very strongly to our going back upon our original suggestion that the Turkish garrisons should not occupy Balkans for a year, shall I insist absolutely upon their right to enter at conclusion of labours of Delimitation Commission in July, or at end of working season? I fear they will be put out about the change.

Did you authorize at Constantinople publication of our negotiations here? If not, shall I speak about it?

No. 637.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury —(Received April 26.)

(No. 43.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, April 25, 1879.*

ON my acquainting M. Depretis with Mr. Gould's nomination as Minister at Belgrade, his Excellency asked whether Her Majesty's Government were not of opinion that Roumania should also be recognized. He considers the position of the two countries as regards the fulfilment of conditions of Treaty of Berlin was analogous, and said that if Her Majesty's Government appoint a Minister to Bucharest he was ready to do so also without waiting for France and Germany.

On receipt of your Lordship's telegram of last evening respecting question as to the interpretation of first proviso of IInd Article of Treaty, I wrote to M. Depretis urging the views of Her Majesty's Government, but I have not yet received an answer.

No. 638.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 26.)

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, April 26, 1879.*

WITH reference to the interpretation of the first proviso of the IInd Article. M. Depretis replies, in note just received, that Italian Government think that the Treaty and Protocols of Berlin have removed every doubt as to the intention [? of the] Powers to give to the Sultan the right of providing for the defence of the frontier of Eastern Roumelia, by erecting fortresses and maintaining troops there. Italian Government, therefore, think that the line ought to descend on the Bulgarian side as far as is necessary for the defence of the passes of the Balkans, but they also think that such Bulgarian territory as is not strictly necessary for the establishment of fortifications should not be comprised.

Until receipt of my note M. Depretis says he had not heard of any question about Demirkapu having been raised.

No. 639.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 26.)

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 26, 1879.*

FOLLOWING proposition was accepted to-day by all except French Commissioner, who would probably have acceded; and the Russian, who desired, before putting to the vote, to add the condition, as a principle, not as a detail, that the extent of the rayon should be restricted to musketry fire. This I declined to admit, and the question is postponed until Monday, when, in case of want of unanimity, some desire to refer to their Government:—

"Depuis Demirkapu jusqu'à Kosica afin de fixer suffisamment la phrase du Traité de Berlin—'chaîne principale,' on entendra par ces mots 'la ligne de partage des eaux.' En cherchant la ligne propre à la défense de la frontière, où la ligne de partage des eaux ne suffit pas à la défense de la Roumélie Orientale, elle devra être modifiée dans les points où la Commission le jugera nécessaire en l'avançant au-delà de la crête."

No. 640.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 26.)

(No. 157.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 26, 1879.*

THE Statute has just been definitively signed.

General Stolipine, at whose invitation Colonel Vitalis took his family to Philippopolis, has refused to [? give] him command of gendarmerie unless he signed a petition asking to be appointed a Russian Colonel, telling him he must choose between the Sultan and Russia. He would then have been placed under Colonel Kisiakoff. Colonel Vitalis has, therefore, returned to Constantinople. General Stolipine informed him that if he arrived, not being introduced by the Russian Legation, he would be received at the point of the bayonet. General Stolipine's conduct is in flagrant contradiction to the Treaty. We discuss this on Monday, and I should be glad of instructions.

No. 641.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 26.)

(No. 368.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 26, 1879.*

FOLLOWING has been received from Mr. Palgrave, dated yesterday:—

"Much intrigue going on in order to have the Russian Commissary elected Prince; it can only be hindered by explicit, distinct refusal of Czar to allow a Russian candidate to be brought forward. I have given notice of danger to Lord Salisbury, but no answer as yet. Might not pressure on St. Petersburgh be advisable? Please telegraph to London if you think fit."

No. 642.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 26.)

(No. 369.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 26, 1879.*

A COMMUNICATION from the Porte states that, in consequence of incessant incursions of Bulgarian insurgents, it has been deemed necessary to arm the Mussulmans near Nevrokop, Melnik, and Petrich, and to form a sufficient number of battalions of auxiliary troops of reserve under the orders of officers selected from honest and respectable inhabitants.

The Grand Vizier has assured me that this force will not consist of Bashi-Bazouks, but is to be composed of a sort of local militia. I warned his Highness of the danger of its being supposed that the Porte was again having recourse to irregulars.

No. 643.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 26.)

(No. 370.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 26, 1879.*

IN conformity with instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 510 of the 10th instant, I have to-day given to the Minister for Foreign Affairs copies of notes containing reciprocal assurances made by Her Majesty's Government and the Russian Government in regard to Eastern Roumelia.

No. 644.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 26.)

(No. 71.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 26, 1879.*

UP to yesterday Count Schouvaloff had had no conversation with Count Andrassy beyond a few words exchanged at the opera, but will see his Excellency to-day.

As he had told me that his Government did not make, and never had made, any difficulty about accepting the proposal of Her Majesty's Government that the prolonged Eastern Roumelian Commission should decide by majority upon the question of calling in Turkish troops, I mentioned the statement to Baron Orczy, but said that I did not know how far it was strictly accurate.

No. 645.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 26.)

(No. 29.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, April 26, 1879.*

I AM confidentially informed that the Government is under the impression that the Italian Government would be disposed to authorize their Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Bucharest to present his credentials to Prince Charles should Her Majesty's Government concur in such a course.

No. 646.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 51.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 26, 1879, 3·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to Prince Gortchacow's statement that Bulgarians will be advised to elect a candidate agreeable to the Powers, it may be well to let the Prince know that Aleko could under no circumstances be accepted. But this must be a question for your discretion. Aleko is saying he means to accept if elected.

No. 647.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 243.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April 26, 1879.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 53 of yesterday's date, reporting a statement, made to you by Prince Gortchacow, that the Russian authorities have advised the Bulgarian population to elect for their Prince a candidate who would be agreeable to the Powers.

I have suggested to you that it might be well to make known to Prince Gortchacow that under no circumstances could Her Majesty's Government consent to the selection of Aleko Pasha for the office. I leave it, however, to your discretion, whether you should make any communication in this sense.

It is reported that Aleko Pasha himself has intimated his intention of accepting the offer if made to him.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 648.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 276.)
Foreign Office, April 26, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to your telegram of the 25th instant, in which you report the hostile language held by Aleko Pasha with regard to England and Austria, I have to state to your Excellency that the conversation you informed me of appeared in substance in the newspapers of this morning. It is, therefore, possible that the language Aleko Pasha held was made with a view to its being made public. In that case, his object may have been to conciliate his future subjects. Perhaps Count Schouvaloff may have suggested to Aleko Pasha to give this direct rebuff to England and Austria.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 649.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 27.)

(Telegraphic.)
Scutari, April 26, 1879.

FOLLOWING telegraphed to Mr. Malet:—

"Letter from Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs, dated 21st, but only received to-day, states Prince announced by telegraph on the 17th to the Sultan the birth of a son in the hope of affording an opening for a commencement of diplomatic relations.

"Financial position of Montenegro, and want of fit person, prevent Prince sending Agent to Constantinople.

"Taking into consideration above facts, what suggestion can I make to Prince which will lead to an understanding between the two Governments?"

No. 650.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 27.)

(No. 372.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, April 27, 1879.

RUSTEM PASHA has informed me that the French Chargé d'Affaires has made a representation to the Porte against his Excellency's return to the Lebanon, but has told his Excellency if he will resign Governorship, France will use her best influence to obtain for him another high post, such as that of Ambassador at Rome. His Excellency is much distressed at this news, and has begged me to inquire whether he has no chance of being supported by Her Majesty's Government, as otherwise he had better make the best of what should offer.

Rustem Pasha is the victim of clerical intrigue and the pretensions of France to protect Catholics in Turkey. His appointment was for ten years, of which four remain. We have behaved with great forbearance in the Hassounist question. If we do the same now it will be construed by the Christians of Asiatic Turkey into a preponderance of French influence in regard to their future, and may be followed by further submissions to the Pope. Nasri Bey, French candidate for the Governorship of the Lebanon, is as clerical in his tendencies as his father, Franko Pasha, who was Governor before Rustem Pasha.

It would, however, be better to abandon Rustem Pasha at once than to endeavour to secure his return and fail.

No. 651.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 27.)

(No. 373.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, April 27, 1879.

THE Grand Vizier spoke to me yesterday on the prospects of Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria. He said that some leading Bulgarians had suggested that the two

should be united under the Sultan. His Highness observed that in the long run the provinces would be united, and he asked himself whether it would not be better that the union should take place with the sanction of the Sultan, who might then make his own conditions, than that they should gain the complete freedom which would be the consequence of an union made after the struggle. He believed that the Porte might hereafter find a protection from Russia in a contented Bulgaria enjoying liberty unknown in Russia. His Highness begged me to lay these considerations before Her Majesty's Government as having been expressed in an entirely unofficial conversation. The Sultan two days ago made valuable presents to his Highness, which would seem to indicate that he is now in favour.

No. 652.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 27.)

(No. 374.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, April 27, 1879.

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs says that although Treaty of Berlin does not exclude a Russian from election as Prince of Bulgaria, Russia assured England and France that a Russian should not be elected. His Excellency hears now that Prince Dondoukoff is likely to be elected, and he begs your Lordship, therefore, to remind Russia of her assurances. His Excellency has made the same request to the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires.

No. 653.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 27.)

(No. 375.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, April 27, 1879.

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Consul-General Michell, dated to-day:—

"Been cordially received by Governor-General. He said that he does not apprehend any disturbance, providing Turks do not occupy Balkans, and that he had suggested to Labanoff that Turks should occupy certain positions in the Rhodope, where the population is exclusively Mussulman, and whence their troops could quickly descend on the plains of Eastern Roumelia, if necessary. I am informed that the Governor-General has announced intention of leaving present police of Russian Government here after evacuation."

No. 654.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 27.)

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.)
St. Petersburgh, April 27, 1879.

THIS Government has sent me a note complaining that Major Clarke claims right to revise fixation of point west of Karaourgan, which has already been agreed upon between the Turkish and Russian Commissioners, and hopes you will instruct him to conform to the decision arrived at.

I have acquainted Prince Gortchacow with the very different version given by Major Clarke of the proceedings referred to.

No. 655.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 27.)

(No. 45.)
(Telegraphic.)
Rome, April 27, 1878.

I HAVE been requested by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to ask your Lordship the following question:—

In the event of the Porte endeavouring to contract a new loan, either upon securities which would absorb all the revenues still disposable, or by diverting, in

favour of new creditors, the securities already assigned to previous loans, what steps would Her Majesty's Government take to safeguard the interests of English holders of Turkish bonds?

No. 656.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 27.)

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, April 27, 1879.*

THE French Ambassador has communicated to Italian Government proposal for Conference of Ambassadors at Constantinople, to settle Greco-Turkish frontier question. He tells me that Italian Government seems to accept.

No. 657.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 27.)

(No. 158.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, July 27, 1879.*

COLONEL VITALIS informs me that after the order for evacuation arrived at Philippopolis about ten days ago, the Russians began nominating to militia foreign officers recommended by Skobeleff and Dondoukoff, and have presented a second battery of artillery. Notwithstanding orders of the Government, the Panslavists are still working for disturbance.

It would be well if General Stolipine were severely pulled up. Colonel Vitalis represents the Bulgarians as most anxious for the departure of the Russians and arrival of the Commission. Reouf Pasha and Colonel Vitalis think delimitation had better take place after the evacuation, as Russian escorts will excite population as they did before.

No. 658.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 27.)

(No. 159.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April 27, 1879.*

I HEAR that all the Turks have left Bourgas, Slivno, Yamboli, and Carnabat. Reouf sent a special train to Yamboli for them. Their object was to take the lands of Christian emigrants in the Sandjak of Adrianople.

No. 659.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 27.)

(No. 160. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April 27, 1879.*

LORD DONOUGHMORE has arrived. He has obtained two remarkable letters from Moscow Committee. Another has arrived, and is said to excite Bulgarians against Aleko Pasha. General Stolipine still intends reinforcing the militia by gymnastic societies. Skobeleff is using incendiary language at Slivno. Walpole remains at Philippopolis.

At a dinner we had to-night in celebration of signature, Russian Commissioner proposed in a most pointed manner the health of the French Commissioners, and M. Ring that of Stolipine and the Russian army.

No. 660.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 27, 1879.*

YOURS 52. Prince Gortchacow's suggestion leaves the matter much where it was before. Every time you pass a watershed you necessarily open a valley giving access to the other side. I fear Jomini does not mean to admit majority principle at all.

No. 661.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 27, 1879.*

GENERAL STOLIPINE'S conduct, if reported to you accurately, is certainly in flagrant contradiction to Treaty. Commission should remonstrate with Russian Ambassador. But be sure of the facts.

I have communicated to St. Petersburgh.

No. 662.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 245.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April 27, 1879.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 52 of the 25th instant, conveying a proposal from Prince Gortchacow to accept the instruction to the Frontier Commission as worded in my telegram and despatch No. 219 of the 22nd instant, but with the additional proviso that deviations of the frontier line to the north shall only be made with a view to the defence of Turkey, and shall not open valleys giving access to Bulgaria.

The suggested addition would, in fact, bring the question back to its previous condition, for every time that a departure is made from the line of water-parting along the crest of a chain of hills, the deviation must of necessity open access to a valley on the side towards which it is made.

The impression produced by this proposal is, that the Russian Government are at heart determined to avoid the admission of the principle that disputed points shall be determined by the vote of the majority.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 663.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 213.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 27, 1879.*

I HAVE repeated to Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh your telegram No. 157 of yesterday's date reporting the refusal of General Stolipine to place Colonel Vitalis in command of the gendarmerie of Eastern Roumelia unless he signed an application for appointment as a Russian colonel.

General Stolipine's conduct, if accurately reported to you, is certainly in flagrant contravention of the Treaty of Berlin. It will be desirable to make sure of the facts before taking action, but if these should be established the Commission should, in my opinion, address an official remonstrance on the subject to the Russian Ambassador.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY

No. 664.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 28.)

(No. 125.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, April 19, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to state that being confined to bed by a sharp attack of illness, I instructed Mr. Plunkett to obtain from M. de Giers an answer to the query contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 30.

M. de Giers answered by letter, so that I had no opportunity of discussing with him the terms of his reply before telegraphing them to your Lordship.

A copy of M. de Giers' communication, which he wished me to consider semi-official, is herewith inclosed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 664.

M. de Giers to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Le 1/7 Avril, 1879.*

VOUS avez bien voulu me faire demander par M. Plunkett quelques explications au sujet de notre dépêche circulaire relative aux Commissions de Délimitation pour bien distinguer les questions de principe pour lesquelles nous demandons l'unanimité des votes, des questions de détail où la majorité nous paraît suffisante. Vous demandez nommément si le Gouvernement Russe admet comme question de détail celle de savoir jusqu'où, et dans quel endroit, le principe de la défense de la Turquie doit être appliquée.

Je suis maintenant en mesure de vous répondre, my Lord, affirmativement oui; nous considérons comme soumises à la majorité des votes la question dont il s'agit, pourvu que la Commission n'ait en vue que la défense tactique de la frontière des Balcans indiquée (comme nous le disons dans le circulaire) par la crête et le partage des eaux; et n'enfreigne pas la règle établie par le Traité de Berlin, que les Turcs ne peuvent s'établir dans les points habités par les Bulgares.

Si ces deux conditions dont vous voudrez bien reconnaître la justesse sont remplies, la Commission pourra toujours décider par la majorité des votes la zone et les points où pourront s'établir les garnisons Turques.

Dans l'espoir que cette explication sera trouvée satisfaisante, je vous prie, &c.
(Signé) GIERS.

No. 665.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 28.)

(No. 217.)
My Lord, *Berlin, April 23, 1879.*

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs has requested me to thank your Lordship for the communication of your telegram of the 21st instant respecting the conditions on which Her Majesty's Government have authorized Mr. Gould to present his credentials to the Servian Government as Minister Resident.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 666.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 28.)

(No. 219.)
My Lord, *Berlin, April 25, 1879.*

I COMMUNICATED the substance of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday respecting the Russian proposal to fix the 13th July for the termination of the labours of the Delimitation Commission to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who told me that he had replied, as your Lordship had done, to the Russian Government, that the German Government would gladly hasten the proceedings of the Commission as much as possible, and had no objection to the date proposed, but that it must of course be understood that the work of the Commission must be brought to a completion under all circumstances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 667.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 28.)

(No. 220.)
My Lord, *Berlin, April 25, 1879.*

I CALLED to-day on the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and explained to his Excellency the difference of opinion which appears to have arisen in the Delimitation Commission as to the interpretation of the first proviso at the end of Article II of the Berlin Treaty in regard to the portion of the Balkan line near Demikapu, which the Russian Commission contended was not subject to that proviso, but a segment drawn without regard to the necessities of defence for Turkey.

I said that Her Majesty's Government contended strongly that the proviso in question applied to all the Balkan frontier of East Roumelia without exception, and hoped the German Government shared the same view, and would instruct their Commissioner accordingly.

M. de Bülow said the question was new to him; he had not heard from the German Commissioner on the subject, but he would inquire and take note of my observations.

His Excellency, however, would not commit himself in favour of either view.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 668.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 28.)

(No. 221. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, April 25, 1879.*

I SEE from the correspondence inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 216, Confidential, of the 23rd instant, on the subject of the decisions of the Boundary Commissions being taken by majorities, that Count Andrassy was afraid that the German Government would not support his proposal.

I have reason to think that the German Government will support any proposal on this matter which the Russian Government acquiesce in.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 669.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 28.)

(No. 222. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, April 26, 1879.*

I MENTIONED to your Lordship in my despatch No. 210, Secret, of the 16th instant, that Prince Bismarck looked with suspicion on the military preparations going on in Russia, and I have since learnt that his suspicions have been increased on ascertaining that 240,000 men are to be added to the Russian army.

In reply to his inquiries, the Russian Government have assured him that this large force is intended solely for police purposes; but he is inclined to suspect that the Russian Government are preparing for a rectification of frontier in Asia, or for resisting any attempts on the part of Austria to occupy Turkish territory, which the anti-Russian

attitude of Count Andrassy and the speech of Count Károly in London have led them to suspect may be in contemplation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 670.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 28.)

(No. 464.)
My Lord, *Paris, April* 25, 1879.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 32 of 11·50 A.M. yesterday, I have the honour to report that I mentioned to M. Waddington this afternoon that your Lordship had received from the Russian Government a proposal to fix the 13th July next for the termination of the labours of the Delimitation Commission. I added that the reason assigned was that, in order that the Commission should derive the fullest possible advantage from the presence of a Russian escort, it was desirable that they should bring their task to a conclusion as soon as possible.

Your Lordship had, I said, answered that you would gladly hasten the proceedings of the Commission as much as possible; that you feared they could hardly bring their work to a termination so soon as the day suggested; but that you had no objection to that day being named, provided that it was clearly understood that, whether or no the Commission had finished their work at that date, they must go on until their task was completed.

M. Waddington said that the same proposal had been made to him by the Russian Government, and that he had forwarded it to the French member of the Commission, but had at the same time remarked to him that it seemed improbable that the work of the Commission could be finished so soon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 671.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 28.)

(No. 465.)
My Lord, *Paris, April* 25, 1879.

IN execution of the instruction conveyed to me by your Lordship's telegram No. 33 of yesterday, I mentioned to M. Waddington the question that had arisen in the Commission of Delimitation respecting the interpretation of the first proviso which appears at the end of the IInd Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

I said that Her Majesty's Government held very strongly that the proviso applied to the whole frontier of Eastern Roumelia without exception, and I added that they earnestly trusted that the same view would be maintained by the Government of France.

M. Waddington said that he heard of the question for the first time, and he begged me to let him have a memorandum of what I had said.

I have accordingly sent him the Memorandum, of which I inclose a copy herewith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 671.

Memorandum.

IT is understood that the Russian Member of the Commission for the delimitation of the frontier of Bulgaria has raised a question respecting the interpretation of the first proviso at the end of the IInd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, and that he contends that a portion of the Balkan line near Demi kapu is not subject to that proviso, and is to be drawn with regard to the necessities of defence for Turkey.

Her Majesty's Government hold very strongly that the whole frontier of Eastern Roumelia, without exception, falls under the proviso, and they earnestly trust that the same view will be maintained by the French Government.

No. 672.

Mr. E. F. Harrison to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 28.)

(No. 8.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 18, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, a statement which purports to show the amount of charges unpaid at the close of the year 1878-79. The total of this statement is 1,248,860,249 piastres caimé.

If valued at the rate (100 per livre Turque) provided in the Regulations* of the 20th March for the demonetization of the caimé, the value of these debts amounts to £T. 3,122,150.

This statement cannot however be accepted as representing in full the current liabilities of the several Departments of the Government.

I have, for example, a statement of the debts of the Department of Public Works, which gives the current debts of that Department as follows:—

	Caimé.	Monnaie de bon aloi (gold or silver).
	Piastres.	Piastres.
For salaries, travelling allowances, and house-rent allowances	1,177,552	254,358
Works	538,574	6,060,676
Sundry claims	134,155	378,743
Amount of a loan with interest to 12th December last	..	3,844,472
		10,538,249
	1,900,281 at	400 4,751
		10,543,000

The above total is equal to £T. 105,430, whereas in the general statement the amount due by the Treasury to the Department of Public Works is given as 1,980,330 piastres caimé, or £T. 4,951 only.

No separate statement has been supplied of the debts of the Military, Marine, or Ordnance Departments. It is therefore impossible to say whether the amount admitted to be due by the Treasury to those Departments represents at all adequately their liability.

Another form of debt as to which the demands of the Commission for information remain still unsatisfied is that of the unpaid orders issued by the Minister of Finance on Provincial Treasuries.

Such orders are issued in discharge of claims on the Central Treasury, both to private persons and to Public Departments. The system is undoubtedly excessively costly, for the orders are not paid on presentation, and the uncertainty as to the time of payment has its natural effect on the terms on which they are issued.

It appears to be usual to issue these assignments on Provincial Treasuries to the full amount of the estimated revenue of a province, with very little consideration as to the progress made in the realization of the revenue.

By the next opportunity I hope to be able to enter into details as to the extent to which the revenue of the current year has been forestalled or assigned, so as to be inapplicable to meet the expenditure of the year.

The President of the Commission, who has long been engaged with this subject, and that of the present condition of the floating or unfunded debt, had arranged to go into it with me yesterday morning, but the previous evening asked me to postpone the examination of it until to-morrow morning, the 19th.

It appears to me to be hopeless to expect that order can succeed to the present condition of confusion unless means can be found for curbing the tendency to obtain temporary advances by the engagement of special sources of revenue.

* These were published in the "Times" of the 3rd April

No financial operation for the consolidation of the existing local debts will be of any lasting advantage if there can be no security that the revenues released will not be again wrongfully engaged, to the injury of existing creditors.

The position at the present time in regard to local temporary debts is probably materially worse than it was six months ago, not only from the positive additions made to the amount of these debts, but from the circumstance that debts previously unsecured, and which could perhaps have been arranged on better terms, have now received material guarantees.

It appears in present circumstances to be deserving of serious consideration whether any support should be given to the idea of any loan, having for part of its object the execution of administrative reforms, or any other and whatever than the settlement of existing debts on terms offering relief to the Treasury.

It is from the revenue alone that means can be obtained for carrying out such administrative improvements as demand additional expenditure, and the expectation that relief from the burden of debt can be found by adding to its amount must be pronounced to be illusory.

I have been engaged lately in the attempt to frame a scheme for provincial financial organization, with the object of separating the financial control from the local Provincial Administration, without raising antagonism between the financial agents and local administrative officers.

The plan which has appeared to me to offer the greatest prospect of success is to create financial circles larger than the vilayets, and to make the sandjak rather than the vilayet the unit of the system, so that the local financial administration, though not, except as concerns their accounts and the enforcement of the central authority in the control of expenditure, made independent of the local Governor, may yet be removed from the intimate relations that at present exist between the "Defterdar" or Accountant-General of the vilayet and the Vali of the province.

The peculiar difficulty seems to be that it is scarcely practicable to separate the financial control from the administration and collection of the revenue, duties as to the proper conduct of which it would not be desirable to impair the authority of the local Governors.

Another point presenting no little difficulty concerns the question as to the extent to which the employment of foreigners would be essentially necessary to the successful working of an improved financial organization.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. F. HARRISON.

Inclosure in No. 672.

STATEMENT of the Unpaid Charges at the close of the Year ended 12th March, 1879.

	To 12th December, 1878.	Additional to 12th March, 1879 (partly estimated).	Total.
Department of the Interior—	Piastres.	Piastres.	Piastres.
Officers of the Grand Vizierate, Council of State, Deputies, Emigrants' Department, Kapou Kehaya and Kapou Chouhadar, and to officials of Ecole de Médecine, &c. ..	4,091,546	..	
Expenses of Hijaz	227,397	..	
Presents and gifts	56,375	..	
Swords and decorations	88,553	..	
Building and repairs	229,422	..	
Furniture	32,861	24,671,365	
Travelling expenses	31,000	..	
Extraordinary	851,881	..	
Printing	12,417	..	
Fuel	30,932	..	
Medicine, &c., for Ecole de Médecine	133,299	..	
	5,785,683	24,671,365	30,457,048
Department of Finance—			
Sehmis, Moukata, Timar, Ziamet Evcaf des Campagnes, Dette Flottante, and Orphan Fund	186,136	..	
Civil List	65,410	..	
Endowments of Imperial Princes and Princesses ..	6,533,763	..	
Pensions	2,654,909	..	
Salaries unpaid, Finance Ministry	2,993,973	..	
Extraordinary expenses	80,344,790	16,760,999	
Furniture	35,496	..	
Travelling expenses	53,776	..	
Office fittings	5,216	..	
Printing	445	..	
Fuel, &c.	13,676	..	
Refunds	1,460,674	..	
Salaries and expenses, Cadastre Department	150,712	..	
Expenses for Department of Mines and Forests ..	3,103	..	
	94,482,110	16,760,999	111,243,109
Sheri and Department of Justice—			
Salaries for personnel of Fetwah and Ministry of Justice ..	8,150,158	12,627,910	20,778,068
Public Instruction	480,105	4,292,026	4,772,131
Commerce	506,155	1,191,170	1,697,325
Public Works	1,650,496	329,834	1,980,330
Foreign Department	1,435,334	2,057,616	3,492,948
Ministry of Evcaf	126,085	6,094,268	8,220,353
Cadastre	..	1,268,915	1,268,915
Mines and Forests*	1,578,091	..	1,578,091
War Department*	672,012,970	..	672,012,970
Marine*	9,830,492	..	9,830,492
Police	3,781,786	6,150,093	9,934,879
Ordnance	105,144,715	265,458,876	371,603,590
Total piastres claims	..	..	1,248,860,249

* These amounts are to the close of the year, or to 12th March, 1879.

No. 673.

Captain Anderson, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 28.*)

(No. 2.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, April 28, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 2, dated the 10th April, 1879, and in accordance with your Lordship's instructions I leave London to-night for Belgrade viâ Vienna, in time to assist at the next meeting of the Commission, which is fixed for the 10th May next at Nisch.

I am accompanied by Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg, Coldstream Guards, Assistant Commissioner, and three men of the Royal Engineers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) S. ANDERSON, *Captain, R.E.,*
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

No. 674.

Mr. Thompson to Lord Tenterden.—(Received April 28.)

My Lord, *Pall Mall, April 26, 1879.*

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant, and to acquaint you, in reply, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, that he recommends Lieutenant Caillard, Royal Engineers, for appointment as assistant to Captain Sale on the Montenegrin Boundary Commission.

Lieutenant Caillard, who speaks French well, has been instructed to proceed to Cettinjé via Vienna.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RALPH THOMPSON.

No. 675.

Pro-Memorid communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Bartolomei, April 28, 1879.

LE Gouvernement Britannique, d'après une communication faite par Lord Dufferin, accepterait le partage des eaux comme ligne de démarcation des Balkans, à condition qu'au sein de la Commission la majorité déciderait des points de déviation nécessaires pour assurer à la Turquie une frontière défensable.

Le Gouvernement Impérial admettrait cette proposition pourvu que les Délégués dans la Commission puissent référer à leurs Gouvernements dans les cas, évidemment peu probables, où un doute s'éléverait quant au caractère offensif ou défensif de la déviation dont il s'agirait.

Une entente sur cette base peut-elle être considérée comme établie?

No. 676.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, April 27, 1879.*

PROCEED to Montenegro to-morrow morning, having been summoned by Prince, who probably wishes to see me on the subject reported in telegram of yesterday.

No. 677.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 28.)

(No. 161.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April 27, 1879.*

WALPOLE telegraphs that he has learned that Turkish troops, 1,000 in number, marching to occupy Djumaa, after evacuation by Russians, were surrounded by Bulgarians in a valley seven hours from the Bansco.

Review of Bulgarian militia will take place at Philippopolis on Tuesday next.

No. 678.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 28.)

(No. .)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April 28, 1879.*

IF Aleko Pasha goes up to Philippopolis are we to accompany him?

There should be no gap between General Stolipine's departure and the assumption of office by the new Governor-General.

No. 679.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 28.)

(No. 58.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 28, 1879.*

IN communicating your telegram No. 52 to Prince Gortchacow, I thought it well to add—as from yourself—that, as the Russian Government seemed so unwilling frankly to accept majority principle without insisting on reservations which would nullify its effect, it would be better to give up the watershed principle altogether and fall back upon the Treaty, under which our Commissioner would be instructed to insist on securing a defensible frontier to Turkey. I further hinted that, as the abandonment of the majority principle deprived us of all security for completion of delimitation within a reasonable term, we could not promise to insist upon the Porte keeping the garrisons out of the Balkans for any very lengthened period—that, indeed, they might be necessary for the protection of the Commission after Russian evacuation was complete.

No. 680.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 28.)

(No. 59.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 28, 1879.*

I HAVE spoken about Aleko in sense desired. The idea was known here, but I do not think countenanced.

No. 681.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 28.)

(No. 60.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 28, 1879.*

THANKS for yours No. 53. I have kept myself quite unfettered on all the points mentioned, and in every conversation have talked of occupation of Balkans as to follow immediately on the completion of delimitation. Nor has any objection been taken, as you will see by my last week's letter; but I wanted to be quite sure of your meaning in case they should hark back to your first proposition.

This morning I hazarded a threat of Balkan occupation taking place even sooner, in hopes of inducing them to yield majority principle.

Jomini explains Stolipine's language to Vitalis, of which they had evidently heard, as only intended to soothe excitement in Roumelia by giving a Russian *imprimatur* to new régime. I insisted on the dissatisfaction and mistrust of Russia's good faith such proceedings must occasion.

No. 682.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 28.)

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 28, 1879.*

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF has intimated to Count Andrassy that Her Majesty's Government are not disinclined to consent that a corps of Russian troops should remain for a time at Philippopolis as a support to the Governor-General.

I have said that I had no knowledge of any such proposal having been made to Her Majesty's Government, and that I felt sure it had not been agreed to by them; but Count Andrassy would be glad to be informed of the truth.

No. 683.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 28.)

(No. 25.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, April 28, 1879.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs tells me that German Government will give their cordial support to the last French note respecting mediation in favour of Greece, and will instruct German Ambassador at Constantinople accordingly.

No. 684.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 28.)

(No. 376.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 28, 1879.*

I HAVE sent following to Mr. Green:—

"If the Prince refuses to send a Representative I fear there is nothing to be done. I spoke to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject this morning His Excellency says that the Porte is ready to send a Representative as soon as Montenegro dispatches one to open relations; there is no need that he should stop long. His Excellency had not known telegram respecting birth of a Prince."

No. 685.

The Marquis of Salisbury to General Hamley.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 28, 1879, 2·20 P.M.*

YOUR proceedings, as reported in your telegram No. 6, are approved.

No. 686.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 28, 1879, 6·35 P.M.*

RUSSIANS promise not to support a Russian for Prince, but it is doubtful whether they are sincere.

The best thing you can do is to support Battenberg, and oppose strongly both Aleko and Dondoukoff.

No. 687.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 36.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 28, 1879, 7·15 P.M.*

"SPEAK in favour of Rustem Pasha to Grand Vizier, and report what chances there are of sustaining him if we press it.

No. 688.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 37.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 28, 1879, 7·30 P.M.*

YOURS 374.

We have already communicated a few days ago in the sense suggested. Prince Gortchacow assured us he would advise Bulgarians to elect a Prince acceptable to Powers, and ridiculed the idea of a Russian being elected.

No. 689.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 28, 1879, 7·25 P.M.*

DUFFERIN reports that Russians are going to send General Obreskow, who is an important personage, and a Panslavist, to tell the Roumelians to accept the new institutions; and Russian Chargé d'Affaires here tells me it has been done. Dufferin also says that Stolipine has apologized for having thought of mobilizing gymnastic societies.

No. 690.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Clarke.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 28, 1879, 7·45 P.M.*

RUSSIANS complain that you claim to revise the fixation of point west of Karaourgan already agreed between Russia and Turkey. What is the real state of the negotiations, and what is the strategic value of the spot in question?

No. 691.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 53.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 28, 1879.*

YOURS 56. I trust I have not expressed myself obscurely and so misled you, but if you will read again mine of April 2, yours 34 of April 7, and mine 19 of April 8, you will see exactly how matters stand. On April 2 I proposed immediate occupation of Bourgas and Ichtiman, but postponement of Balkans for a year. On April 7 you reported that Russians objected to Ichtiman, wished Balkans postponed till completion of delimitation, and Bourgas postponed till evacuation by Russian troops. In answer to this I proposed, on April 8, if Russians would accept majority principle in delimitation, to postpone Bourgas till after evacuation of province, and land frontiers, which include Ichtiman and Balkans, till after completion of delimitation, assuming it to be completed this year.

The first proposal was Ichtiman and Bourgas at once, and Balkans twelve months hence; the second, which was framed to meet Russian objections to the first, was Bourgas after evacuation, Ichtiman and Balkans after delimitation. It is clearly impossible to give Russians the advantageous part of both alternatives; but we could not now return to proposal of April 2, because we have communicated proposal of April 8 to other Powers, especially the Turks. It is very improbable that Turks should occupy Balkan chain till after next winter, nor do we contemplate advising them to do so. But Russian proceedings show bad faith, and make it dangerous to give formal promise. Occupation of Bourgas by Bulgarian militia, and Stolipine's language, repeated to you to-day, show intention of using militia to defeat the Treaty.

No. 692.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 60.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 28, 1879, 7·40 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Chargé d'Affaires made to me to-day, formally, the proposition made to you by Giers, and reported in your private letter of the 24th. I replied that we could not accept it, as it offered no practical solution, and in effect destroyed principle of decision by majority altogether.

No. 693.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 62.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 28, 1879, 8 P.M.*

I HAVE received the following figures from Sir H. Wolff:—

[See No. 659.]

Ascertain from Minister for Foreign Affairs whether it is agreeable to him that the Commission should accompany Aleko, in order to advise him. It is presumed that Porte would give its consent in accordance with its own recent Circular.

No. 694.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 247.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April 28, 1879.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 56 of the 26th instant, inquiring whether, in the event of the Russian Government objecting to return to the first proposal made to them, which involved the postponement for a year of the Turkish occupation of the Balkans, you should insist upon the right of the Porte to garrison the Balkan frontier at the conclusion of the operations of the Delimitation Commission in July next or at the end of the working season.

I have thought it best, in reply, to recapitulate exactly what has passed on the subject, in order to avoid the possibility of any mistake.

The proposal made by me on the 2nd instant was for the immediate occupation by Turkish forces of Bourgas and Ichtiman, while the exercise of the Sultan's right to garrison the Balkans was to be postponed for a year. On the 7th instant your Excellency reported that the Russian Government objected to the occupation of Ichtiman by Turkish troops, that they wished the occupation of the Balkan line to be postponed until the completion of the delimitation, and that the Turkish occupying force should not be sent to Bourgas until after the evacuation of the province by the Russian troops had been completed. I thereupon informed your Excellency on the following day that if the Russian Government would accept the principle that the Commission of Delimitation should settle disputed points by a vote of the majority, Her Majesty's Government would be ready to agree to the occupation of Bourgas being postponed until after the withdrawal of the Russian forces from the province; and, further, that the occupation of the land frontiers, including both Ichtiman and the Balkan line, should be deferred until after the Frontier Commission had terminated its labours, assuming that those labours would be completed during the course of the present year.

Our first proposal, therefore, was the immediate occupation of Ichtiman and Bourgas, and the occupation of the Balkan line twelve months hence. The second proposal, which was framed to meet the objections offered by the Russian Government to the first, was for the occupation of Bourgas after the Russian evacuation, and of Ichtiman and the Balkan lines as soon as the delimitation of the frontier was completed. It would clearly be impossible to retain that portion of each alternative which is most favourable to the Russian view. It would, however, be impossible now to return to the proposal made on the 2nd instant, because the later proposals of the 8th have been communicated to other Powers, and especially to the Porte. It is very improbable that the latter should proceed, in fact, to the occupation of the Balkan frontier till after next winter, and Her Majesty's Government do not contemplate offering to Turkey any advice in

that sense. But the proceedings of the Russian Government argue a want of candour which makes it dangerous to give any formal promise on the subject. The occupation of Bourgas by Bulgarian militia, and the reports of General Stolipine's language, which have been reported to me and repeated to your Excellency by telegraph, give evidence of an intention to make use of the militia for the purpose of defeating the execution of the Treaty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 695.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 250.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April 28, 1879.*

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires has to-day verbally communicated to me the proposition already made to your Excellency by Prince Gortchacow, and reported in your private letter of the 24th instant, viz., that the majority principle in the Delimitation Commission should apply only to deviations which had genuine defence for their object, and that a power should be reserved to the Russian and other Delegates of referring to their Governments those which had an aggressive tendency. He left me a *Pro-Memoriâ* upon this subject, of which a copy is inclosed herewith.*

I informed M. Bartholomei that, in the judgment of Her Majesty's Government, such a proposition was practically inconsistent with the principle of deciding by a majority; for that if it was open to the minority, by giving a particular description to the resolution passed, to frustrate the vote of the majority, it could not be said that the principle of voting by majorities had been conceded. Some other formula, I said, must be found, as this furnished no practical solution of the difficulty of deciding by a unanimous vote.

He then pressed upon me to instruct Major Clarke to abstain from insisting that he should be a party to the delimitation of the frontier at Karaourgan.

I said that the agreement which had been come to between myself and Count Schouvaloff appeared to me clearly to imply that the point of departure to the west, close to Karaourgan, should be marked out in the presence and with the consent of the English Commissioner. I promised, however, to ascertain from Major Clarke exactly how the question stood.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 696.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 599.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 28, 1879.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 372 of yesterday's date, reporting the opposition offered by the French Chargé d'Affaires to Rustem Pasha's return to the Lebanon, although four years of his term of office as Governor are yet unexpired.

I have, in reply, requested you to speak to the Grand Vizier in favour of the continuance of Rustem Pasha in his present office, and to report to me what chances there are of success, if the matter is pressed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 697.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 601.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April 28, 1879.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 374 of yesterday's date, conveying the request of the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs that Her Majesty's Government

* No. 675.

would remind that of Russia of the assurance given by them that no Russian should be elected Prince of Bulgaria.

I have informed you, in reply, that we have already been in communication with the Russian Government on this subject. Prince Gortchacow has assured Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh that the Russian authorities would advise the Bulgarians to elect a Prince who would be acceptable to the Powers, and he ridiculed the idea of the election of a Russian subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 698.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 215.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 28, 1879.

I HAVE received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh telegraphic intelligence that the Russian Government propose to send to Eastern Roumelia General Obreskow, a personage of considerable importance and Panslavist views, with instructions to exhort the inhabitants of the province to accept peaceably the new institutions prepared for them. The Russian Chargé d'Affaires in London informs me that this step has been actually taken.

I also hear from Lord Dufferin that General Stolipine has apologized for having contemplated the mobilization of the gymnastic societies.

I have thought it desirable to convey the above information to you by telegraph.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 699.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Clarke.

(No. 24.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 28, 1879.

HER Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh reports that the Russian Government complain that you claim to reopen the discussion on the subject of the position of a point west of Karaourgam in the new Asiatic frontier of Turkey, which has already been agreed upon between the Russian and Turkish Commissioners.

Lord Dufferin has, in reply, informed Prince Gortchacow of the proceedings in the Commission, as reported in your telegrams, which give a very different impression of what has occurred.

I have requested you by telegraph this day to inform me of the exact state of the negotiations, and also of your opinion as to the strategic value of the spot in dispute.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 700.

The Marquis of Salisbury to General Hamley.

(No. 14.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 28, 1879.

IN reply to your despatch No. 6 of the 6th instant, I informed you by telegraph to-day that Her Majesty's Government can see nothing in the conditions of the Treaty of Berlin which would authorize the Porte to order its troops to occupy any towns in the interior of Eastern Roumelia in time of peace. In their opinion, a combined offensive movement against Turkey on the part of Servia and Bulgaria is at present most improbable, except in conjunction with a general attack supported by Russia, and so long as the relations of the Porte with Austria continue to be friendly Her Majesty's Government believe that the latter Power may be trusted to check any aggressive intentions on the part of Servia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 701.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 234.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 28, 1879.

ON the occasion of M. Catalani speaking to me with reference to the conveyance of land in Cyprus to foreigners, as reported in another despatch of this date, he also asked me whether Her Majesty's Government looked upon the tribute to Bulgaria as subject to the hypothecation which the revenue of the vilayet of the Danube was pledged to.

To this I replied that at the present moment the existence of the tribute of Bulgaria was entirely in the future, and its amount could not be foreseen; but that, speaking generally, I should imagine that it would inherit the burdens that were borne by the revenue formerly raised from the same territory.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 702.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29.)

(No. 58.)
My Lord, *Tehran, March* 13, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of a communication received by me, with its inclosure, from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, forwarding the answer of the Turkish Ambassador to the communication sent to him with respect to Kotoor as reported in my despatch to your Lordship No. 43 of the 25th of last month

I have, &c.
(Signed) RONALD F. THOMSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 702.

Fakhri Bey to the Sepah Salar.

(Translation.) *February* 26, 1879.

I HAVE understood the contents of your Highness' note of the 24th instant, respecting the district as set forth in your letter, do not correspond with that which is deposited at this Embassy, but, as it is for the Boundary Commission to solve and decide this question, your Highness and myself are both perfectly absolved from discussing the matter; secondly, as respects the troops of both sides and the said lands, I acknowledge having arranged with your Highness that the neighbouring lands of the district should be evacuated by the military camps of the two Mahommedan Powers until the Commission has decided the respective boundaries, and I have also reported the same to the Sublime Porte at Constantinople.

Inclosure 2 in No. 702.

The Sepah Salar to Mr. R. Thomson.

(Translation.) *March* 2, 1879.

HAVING forwarded a copy of my letter of the 24th ultimo to the Ottoman Embassy in my letter of the same date to you respecting the removal of the Turkish troops from the district of Kotoor, I now also beg to inclose, with much respect, the reply of his Excellency the Turkish Ambassador to this Department under date of the 26th ultimo for your information.

No. 703.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 29.)

(No. 159.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 10, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a letter addressed to me by General Sir Collingwood Dickson on the Chapters of the gendarmerie and militia, principally prepared by himself and Captain de Torcy.

I cannot omit expressing to your Lordship the great obligation under which I feel myself to Sir Collingwood Dickson for the trouble he took and the time he bestowed on this labour. The presence and sanction of an officer of his rank and distinction gave a weight to our proposals which was clearly recognized by the Russian military authorities.

General Dickson makes mention in his letter of the services rendered in the preparation of these Chapters by Captain de Torcy, Military Attaché to the French Embassy at Constantinople. Captain de Torcy was in fact the rédacteur, and the skill, ability, and industry with which he performed his task entitled him to the grateful acknowledgments of the Commission.

As the only Commissioner besides the French who was supported by the counsels of a military officer, I should be glad if Her Majesty's Government deemed it right to express to the French Government the sense I feel of the value derived by the European Commission from Captain de Torcy's services and acquirements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 703.

General Sir C. Dickson to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

Sir, *Constantinople, April* 9, 1879.

I BEG to furnish you with a short statement relative to matters connected with the labours of the Committee* for drawing up a scheme for the formation and organization of the militia and gendarmerie forces of Eastern Roumelia.

In this scheme, as you are aware, the details of this organization were carefully prepared and considered by the Committee, both as regarded the cost as well as their adaptation to the requirements of the province, and great care was taken to make due provision for the difference in races and religious creeds amongst the population, and for the general liability of all to a common service in the ranks of either the militia or gendarmerie.

This scheme, in two Chapters, with appendices containing rules for service, pay and discipline, &c., in either force, was submitted to the European Commission at Philippopolis at the end of March last, and was approved of and adopted by it, with some alterations and modifications not affecting any of the general principles laid down by the Committee.

I now inform you that the chief Russian authority of the province, General Stolipine (Governor-General), and most of his subordinates were greatly opposed to the scheme drawn up by the Committee, and Colonel Schepelew, our colleague, expressed his dissent to its main principles to myself and Captain de Torcy, both at the commencement and during the course of our labours; and the present form of organization was carried by our joint opposition to Colonel Schepelow's proposals. General Stolipine also expressed his strong objections to the work of the Committee during several visits I received from him, and he strove hard to impress me with his views, and the same with Captain de Torcy.

General Stolipine and Colonel Schepelow objected strongly to the formation of an armed and disciplined force of gendarmerie; they considered that a simple unarmed police would be sufficient to maintain order and security, and laid very great stress upon the constant maintenance of a militia force—some 5,000 or 6,000 men—for the defence of the frontier towards Rhodope and Adrianople; and they urged that the Turks would be constantly crossing over to pillage and harass the Christian population, if no adequate force existed to oppose them. I pointed out that the constant maintenance of a large force of militia would be utterly ruinous to the finances of the

* Committee: Russian Colonel Schepelew, French Military Attaché, Captain de Torcy, and myself.

province; and, moreover, that there was no real reason to dread any incursions into a province belonging to the Sultan; and that the Turks, both in Rhodope and Adrianople districts, desired peace and quietness as much as their neighbours. The frontiers could be sufficiently protected against any lawless incursions by the small detachments of gendarmerie stationed at various points, and the militia of the country could be called out in any particular district, should its services be temporarily required, without the expense of keeping up a permanent force. The present militia and gendarmerie of the province is composed almost exclusively of Bulgarians, officered, with a few exceptions, by Russians, and there are nine existing battalions (7,000 or 8,000 men in all) of militia, all well drilled and organized. These battalions will of course have to be disbanded and remodelled under the new system of organization; and General Stolipine asked me how the province could defend itself against the Turks on the departure of the Russian army in May; and he added that these battalions would be left without officers should the Russian officers have to leave the country with the army of occupation in May. He also said that no foreign officer would enter the militia or gendarmerie service of Eastern Roumelia should he be obliged to take the oath of allegiance to the Sultan. This evidently points to the wish that Russians should remain in or re-enter the militia under the new organization.

As you know, the Bulgarians in every part of the province are in possession of arms (about 65,000 rifles) and ammunition supplied by the Russians, and every man capable of bearing arms is occupied in drilling and target practice under the system of "Ecoles Gymnastiques," and instructed by Russian non-commissioned officers.

In conclusion, I may affirm that, in a military point of view, the state of Eastern Roumelia is far from satisfactory, and I fear that it will be a work of very great difficulty to effect a general disarming of the Bulgarians throughout the province, and I do not believe the Turkish forces alone could do so without encountering great resistance, when much bloodshed would ensue in consequence. I consider the Russian authorities are responsible for this state of affairs.

I have already told you verbally how well Captain de Torcy, the French Military Attaché, supported me in opposing the Russian views for the militia and gendarmerie, and I consider the European Commission is most indebted to him for the ability and industry he displayed in framing the rules of every description for these forces. I must also add that although Colonel Schepelew, our colleague, opposed my proposals, he thought contrary to Russian views; he gave way to our joint remonstrances, and worked with us well and courteously.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. DICKSON, *General,*
Military Attaché.

No. 704.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 29.)

(No. 165.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, April* 15, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of Protocols Nos. 54, 56, and 60.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 704.

Protocole No. 54.—Séance du $\frac{4}{16}$ Mars, 1879 (26 *Rébi-ul-Euel* 1296), *à la Maison de la Commission Européenne à Philippopoli.*

Présidence de M. le BARON DE RING.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff,
Le Comte de Donoughmore.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schepelew,
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Le protocole de la dernière séance, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

L'ordre du jour appelle le débat sur les Chapitres XII et XIII : "Milice Locale" et "Gendarmerie."

Le Colonel Schepelew prend la parole en ces termes :—

"Vous avez chargé, Messieurs, le Baron de Ring et moi de vous présenter les projets des Chapitres de la Milice et de la Gendarmerie, que nous sommes appelés à discuter aujourd'hui. Avant tout, je tiens à constater que pour l'élaboration de ces deux projets, MM. les Commissaires de France et de la Grande Bretagne ont jugé utile de s'adresser au concours de spécialistes, MM. le Général Sir Collingwood Dickson et le Capitaine de Torcy, Attachés Militaires aux Ambassades d'Angleterre et de France à Constantinople. Grâce à la coopération de ces deux officiers distingués, les Chapitres XII et XIII ont pu être élaborés en un laps de temps relativement bref et sans omettre les détails les plus nécessaires au début de l'organisation de ces deux corps indigènes. Aussi dois-je remercier le Général Dickson et le Capitaine de Torcy de leur concours éclairé et rendre hommage au zèle et au talent que ce dernier a déployés dans la tâche difficile de rédiger les projets sur la milice et la gendarmerie, ainsi que les règlements provisoires qui y sont annexés.

"Ceci dit, Messieurs, il me faut encore vous expliquer le point de vue auquel je me place par rapport aux systèmes d'organisation projetés pour la gendarmerie et la milice, et qui, je le déclare franchement, ne répondent pas entièrement à l'idée que je me fais de ces deux corps. J'ai toujours pensé, et je crois encore, que la gendarmerie de la province ne devait être autre chose qu'un corps de police locale fortement constitué et placé sous tous les rapports à la disposition de l'Administration civile. Vous voudrez bien vous rappeler que, lors d'un échange d'idées sur le projet primitif de Lord Donoughmore, j'avais manifesté la crainte qu'une gendarmerie essentiellement militaire et indépendante de l'autorité civile pourrait amener des conflits, qui ne manqueraient pas de nuire au fonctionnement régulier du mécanisme administratif. C'est pourquoi j'aurais préféré que la gendarmerie Roumélioto fût proportionnellement distribuée en détachements territoriaux dans les différentes subdivisions administratives de la province et subordonnée aux Chefs des départements et des cantons, qui recruteraient eux-mêmes les gendarmes dans l'étendue de leurs circonscriptions respectives. Il est vrai que nous avons créé un poste de Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, ce qui semble indiquer que cette dernière doit être une force militaire. Mais selon moi le rôle du Chef de la gendarmerie pourrait être celui d'un Inspecteur-Général qui veillerait à l'entretien matériel des gendarmes, à leur discipline, et à leur instruction militaire, en tant que celle-ci est nécessaire à un agent de sûreté publique. Enfin le Commandant de la gendarmerie pourrait aussi servir d'intermédiaire entre les Préfets et le Gouverneur-Général pour tout ce qui concernerait l'avancement et les récompenses à accorder aux gendarmes, sur des états de proposition établis par les Préfets.

"En un mot le principe essentiel qui d'après moi aurait dû servir de base à l'organisation d'une gendarmerie locale faisant fonction de police exécutive, est celui d'une subordination absolue de cette force aux autorités administratives du pays.

"Tout en regrettant que mon point de vue n'ait pas été partagé par mes collègues, j'ai néanmoins donné mon adhésion au projet du Chapitre sur la Gendarmerie dans sa rédaction actuelle, qui est le résultat d'un compromis, très-peu accentué il est vrai, entre mes opinions et celles de la majorité des Commissaires.

"Pour ce qui est du Chapitre de la Milice, il pourrait aussi donner prise à bien des objections. M'abstenant de les exposer en détail pour ne pas trop spécialiser les débats, je me borne à signaler deux points très-importants qui présentent, je crois, de sérieux inconvénients. Ce sont l'exiguité des cadres permanents dans la milice, et l'absence des cadres non-permanents dans la réserve.

"Selon les dispositions du Chapitre XII, l'effectif total des compagnies présentes dans toute la province, sauf le Bataillon-école, n'est fixé qu'à 828 hommes, ou à 69 hommes de troupe par compagnie. Il me paraît bien difficile qu'avec un tel cadre la compagnie active puisse sérieusement remplir ses doubles fonctions—d'instruire le contingent annuel du premier ban de la milice et de concourir au maintien de l'ordre public. Comme la durée du service dans le cadre permanent est de deux ans et que la moitié de ce cadre devra être renouvelée chaque année, il n'y aura toujours dans chaque compagnie présente que trente-cinq vrais instructeurs appelés à diriger l'enseignement militaire non-seulement du contingent annuel mais aussi des hommes nouvellement engagés dans le cadre permanent. Je me permets de douter qu'avec un tel système d'organisation la milice Roumélioto puisse jamais devenir une force militaire apte à faire un autre service que celui de garnison.

"Il est vrai que le chiffre de l'effectif des compagnies présentes est étroitement lié à la question financière, et je comprends que la Commission hésite à élever considérablement les dépenses, sans être sûre que les ressources du pays seront à même de subvenir aux frais de l'entretien des cadres permanents ainsi que des hommes appelés annuellement à l'instruction militaire. Je crois pourtant que nous pourrions, sans crainte de surcharger le budget, porter dès à présent le minimum de l'effectif des compagnies présentes à 100 hommes au moins par compagnie, ce qui constituerait toujours, avec le Bataillon-école et le quart du contingent annuel, une force militaire bien faible, mais en tous cas propre à remplir le rôle principal qui lui est assigné par le Traité de Berlin, celui de sauvegarder l'ordre intérieur de la province surtout au début de la nouvelle organisation.

"Quant à l'absence de cadres non-permanents dans la réserve, c'est un inconvénient évident dont je n'ai pas besoin de motiver les raisons, et qui ne manquera pas de se faire sentir lorsque des circonstances, difficiles à prévoir maintenant, pourront forcer le Gouvernement Provincial à procéder à la formation de bataillons de troisième ban.

"J'ai cru devoir, Messieurs, vous exposer en séance plénière ces observations, que j'ai déjà fait valoir dans des conférences privées avec quelques-uns de nos collègues. A vous d'apprécier si les raisons que j'allègue sont de nature à être prises en sérieuse considération, ce que personnellement j'aurais vivement désiré. Mais si tous les Commissaires sont d'avis que le projet du Chapitre de la Milice, tel qu'il vous est présenté, répond en principe à l'idée que le Congrès de Berlin s'était faite de cette force territoriale, je ne m'opposerai pas à son adoption, voulant par là montrer encore une fois que nous ne désirons pas créer des obstacles à l'œuvre commune dont nous sommes chargés.

"C'est aussi dans le même but de conciliation que j'ai adhéré à la rédaction de l'Article 2 du Chapitre de la Milice, qui traite des conditions dans lesquelles la milice Roumélioto pourra renforcer l'armée régulière Ottomane, et j'espère que nos collègues nous en tiendront compte lors de l'entente à établir sur les Articles du Statut restés ouverts."

Après un échange d'idées entre tous les Commissaires les Chapitres XII et XIII sont adoptés à l'unanimité dans la forme suivante :—

Chapitre XII.—Milice Locale.

I.—*Bases de l'Institution.*

ARTICLE 1er. La milice est une force militaire indigène, territoriale et sédentaire ; elle réside ordinairement dans ses foyers et ne peut être mobilisée, en totalité ou en partie, que par le Gouverneur-Général agissant en vertu de la délégation permanente de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Art. 2. La milice est appelée, en temps de paix, à appuyer éventuellement l'action de la gendarmerie pour le maintien de l'ordre public à l'intérieur.

En qualité de force militaire Ottomane, elle doit, en cas d'invasion de la province ou d'opérations de guerre sur ses frontières, seconder d'action défensive de l'armée Impériale.

Elle pourra de même, sur la demande de la Sublime Porte, renforcer, dans les limites des possessions Européennes de l'Empire, l'armée de Sa Majesté le Sultan lorsqu'une loi de l'Empire, rendue en exécution des promesses déjà faites par le Gouvernement Impérial, aura effectivement donné à tous les sujets de l'Empire un droit égal aux fonctions, honneurs, et devoirs militaires.

Dans l'un et l'autre cas, elle constitue un corps auxiliaire sous le commandement de ses chefs directs, qui demeurent chargés de diriger son fonctionnement intérieur. Les charges financières résultant de la mise sur le pied de guerre de la milice incombent au Trésor de l'Empire.

Art. 3. Tout habitant indigène de la province est astreint au service militaire personnel dans la milice et dans sa réserve.

Art. 4. Les remplacements ne sont point autorisés.

Art. 5. L'exemption définitive du service n'est accordée que pour cause d'incapacité physique.

Les dispenses prévues au Titre II ne sont pas définitives.

Art. 6. Ne sont pas admis à servir dans la milice les hommes antérieurement condamnés à une peine afflictive ou infamante.

Art. 7. Nul ne peut servir dans la milice s'il n'est indigène de la province ou si son admission n'a été spécialement autorisée par une ordonnance du Gouverneur Général rendue dans la forme d'un règlement d'administration publique.

II.—*Recrutement.*

Art. 8. Le territoire de la province est divisé en douze districts de recrutement correspondant, deux par deux, à chacun des six départements administratifs.

Un officier supérieur ou Capitaine remplit les fonctions de Commandant militaire du district. Il est assisté, pour la tenue des contrôles du recrutement, par un Sergent-Major de district.

Art. 9. Aussitôt après la promulgation du présent Statut on établira, dans chaque commune, un Registre-Matricule contenant les noms de tous les habitants mâles domiciliés dans la commune, depuis les nouveaux-nés jusqu'aux hommes âgés de 32 ans révolus.

Art. 10. Sont considérés comme légalement domiciliés dans la commune :—

1. Les hommes nés et établis dans la commune ;

2. Les hommes établis dans la commune qui ne pourraient prouver leur inscription dans aucune autre commune ;

3. Les absents, dont le père, la mère, ou le tuteur, sont établis dans la commune, à moins qu'ils ne prouvent leur établissement dans une autre commune de la province.

Art. 11. Le Registre-Matricule sera établi, dans chaque commune, par les soins d'une Commission composée des Maires et adjoints et du Chef religieux de chacune des communautés. Le plus ancien Maire est Président de droit de la Commission ; il est personnellement responsable de l'exactitude des indications portées sur le Registre-Matricule.

Art. 12. Le Registre-Matricule sera tenu à jour par l'inscription de toutes les naissances d'enfants mâles, et par celles des hommes qui pourront, par la suite, faire élection de domicile dans la commune.

Art. 13. Il est formé, pour chaque canton, un Conseil Permanent de Recrutement composé : du Bailli ou du Sécrétaire-Général de la Préfecture pour les cantons des chefs-lieux de département, d'un membre du Conseil Général appartenant au canton, désigné par le sort du Juge de Canton résidant au chef-lieu du canton, et d'un représentant laïque ou ecclésiastique élu par chacune des communautés religieuses représentées dans le canton ; un employé du bailliage remplit, près du Conseil, les fonctions de Secrétaire.

Ce Conseil décide, sans frais, sur toutes les réclamations relatives à l'établissement des Registres-Matricules. Il ne peut être fait appel de ces décisions que devant la Commission Départementale.

Art. 14. Les Maires sont tenus d'adresser au Bailli de leur canton respectif, dans les trois mois qui suivront la promulgation du présent Statut, un relevé détaillé du Registre-Matricule de leur commune. Il sera dressé, à l'aide de ses relevés, un Registre-Matricule cantonal.

Les modifications résultant de décès, des naissances, et des changements de domicile, sont, de même, notifiés chaque année au Bailli par les soins et sous la responsabilité des Maires ; ces relevés sont arrêtés à la date du 31 Décembre, et doivent être transmis, dans le courant du mois de Janvier, aux Baillis, qui font rectifier et compléter en conséquence les indications portées au Registre-Matricule cantonal.

Art. 15. Un Tableau spécial, établi d'après les indications du registre cantonal et donnant les noms des jeunes gens qui ont accompli leur vingtième année au 1er Janvier de l'année courante, est dressée, par les soins des Baillis, dans le courant du mois de Février.

Des relevés particuliers de cette liste de recensement cantonale, établis par commune, sont adressés aux Maires qui leur donnent la plus grande publicité possible. Les réclamations contre ces inscriptions doivent être présentés dans un délai de quinze jours après l'affichage des listes.

Les listes communales sont ensuite renvoyées aux Baillis avec les dossiers des réclamants. Les Baillis en saisissent les Conseils de Recrutement qui statuent et arrêtent définitivement la liste de recensement cantonale. Ces inscriptions devront toujours comprendre également le nom du père de l'homme inscrit.

Art. 16. Les opérations du tirage au sort ont lieu au chef-lieu du canton ou dans certaines localités désignées par le Conseil de Recrutement Cantonal. Ces dispositions sont annoncées par voie d'affiches.

Le Conseil se transporte au jour fixé dans le lieu désigné ; il est assisté du Commandant militaire du district de milice, ou d'un officier désigné par lui, et du sergent-major de district chargé de la tenue des contrôles.

Les Maires des communes doivent toujours être présents aux opérations du tirage au sort et à celles de la révision. Un médecin désigné par le Préfet assiste le Conseil pour procéder à l'examen médical des conscrits.

Art. 17. Pour l'opération du tirage au sort, il est établi autant de bulletins qu'il y a de noms inscrits sur la liste de recensement.

Ces bulletins, numérotés suivant une progression arithmétique en partant du chiffre 1, sont parafés par tous les membres du Conseil et déposés dans l'urne en présence des jeunes gens inscrits ou de leurs représentants.

Les hommes sont appelés par ordre alphabétique pour retirer leur bulletin de l'urne. S'ils ne répondent pas à l'appel, ou si personne ne se présente en leur nom, le numéro est tiré par le Maire de leur commune ou section de commune. Le Président du Conseil en fait la lecture à haute voix, et le numéro est inscrit immédiatement sur la liste du tirage, à côté des nom et prénoms du possesseur du numéro.

Le tirage achevé, l'opération est considérée comme définitive et ne peut être recommencée. La liste du tirage ainsi établie est lue a haute voix et signée par tous les Maires et par tous les membres du Conseil.

Art. 18. Les opérations de la révision suivent immédiatement, s'il est possible, celles du tirage au sort.

L'officier de santé donne son avis sur chacun des jeunes gens appelés successivement devant le Conseil ; le Conseil, après avoir pris l'avis du médecin, décide à la majorité des voix sur leur aptitude au service. S'il y a partage des voix, l'opinion émise par le médecin devient prépondérante.

Art. 19. Les jeunes gens qui, par suite de quelque infirmité physique, sont déclarés incapables de faire, dans la milice, un service actif ou auxiliaire sont exemptés du service militaire.

Le Conseil peut ajourner à l'année suivante les jeunes gens qui sont seulement d'une complexion délicate susceptible d'amélioration. Ces ajournements peuvent être prononcés pendant trois années consécutives.

Art. 20. La dispense de service militaire est accordée en temps de paix :

1. À l'aîné d'orphelins de père et de mère ;

2. Au fils unique, à l'aîné des fils, ou, à défaut de fils et de gendre, à l'aîné des

petits-fils d'une femme veuve, d'une femme dont le mari est légalement déclaré absent, d'un père aveugle ou infirme, ou d'un père septuagénaire. Si le frère aîné, dans l'un des cas prévus ci-dessus, se trouvait être lui-même aveugle ou infirme, la dispense s'étendrait également au frère puîné;

3. A quiconque a un frère engagé sous les drapeaux à titre permanent;

4. Au frère d'un soldat mort ou retraité par suite d'infirmités ou blessures contractées dans un service commandé.

La dispense prévue aux §§ 3 et 4 n'est applicable qu'à un fils par famille, mais elle est renouvelable autant de fois que le droit à la dispense vient à se reproduire.

Toutes ces dispenses sont applicables, même après l'incorporation, pour quiconque viendrait ultérieurement à se trouver placé dans des conditions de famille telles qu'il eût eu droit à la dispense lors de sa comparution devant le Conseil de Recrutement.

Art. 21. Les membres du clergé des différentes cultes reconnus dans la province; les élèves des séminaires et des écoles Musulmans ("médressés") ayant déjà commencé leurs études théologiques; les instituteurs et les élèves des écoles d'instituteurs, à la condition de se vouer à l'enseignement pendant une période de douze années, sont dispensés provisoirement du service dans la milice.

Si les uns ou les autres renoncent volontairement à leur profession, ils retombent aussitôt sous le coup de la loi et sont inscrits sur la liste de recensement de l'année courante.

Art. 22. Sont également dispensés du service militaire, pendant la durée de leur fonction ou de leur emploi:

(*a.*) Les Directeurs, membres du Conseil Privé, les membres de l'Assemblée Provinciale, et les fonctionnaires attachés à l'Assemblée;

(*b.*) Les fonctionnaires et employés de l'Administration des Postes et des Télégraphes;

(*c.*) Les Directeurs et infirmiers attachés aux hôpitaux civils, les Directeurs et gardiens des prisons, les agents de la police rurale, les douaniers et gardes-forestiers;

(*d.*) Les employés des lignes de chemins de fer.

Art. 23. Les médecins ou élèves en médecine et les vétérinaires ne peuvent être employés dans la milice qu'au titre de leur spécialité. Leur hiérarchie spéciale est indiquée au Règlement Provisoire ci-annexé.

Art. 24. Il peut être accordé des sursis d'appel, dont la durée ne saurait toutefois excéder quatre ans, aux jeunes gens qui font, à l'étranger, leurs études universitaires.

Ces sursis ne dispensent pas les jeunes gens qui les ont obtenus de faire, à leur retour, le nombre intégral d'années de service exigé des hommes de leur classe.

Art. 25. Toute les dispenses peuvent être annulées en temps de guerre par ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général rendue dans la forme d'un règlement d'administration publique.

Art. 26. Lorsque le Conseil de Recrutement a terminé ses délibérations sur les exemptions, ajournements, dispenses, et exclusions, la liste du recrutement cantonale est arrêtée et signée par tous les membres du Conseil et déclarée définitive. Cette liste est divisée en cinq parties comprenant, dans l'ordre des numéros de tirage:—

1. Ceux qui ont été déclarés aptes au service et qui n'appartiennent à aucune des catégories ci-après désignées;

2. Les hommes dispensés par application de l'Article 20 ci-dessus;

3. Les hommes dispensés en vertu des Articles 21 et 22;

4. Les hommes ajournés;

5. Les hommes classés, pour défaut de taille ou faiblesse de constitution, dans les services auxiliaires de la milice.

Art. 27. Après la clôture définitive de la liste de recrutement cantonale, le Conseil statue sur les demandes de substitution de numéros entre les hommes du même canton.

Art. 28. Les travaux des Conseils de Recrutement doivent être entièrement achevés au plus tard le 1er Juin de chaque année.

Art. 29. Le sergent-major de chaque district de milice tient, sous la surveillance et la responsabilité du Commandant militaire du district, le Registre-Matricule de recrutement établi sur la base des listes mentionnées à l'Article 26.

Il tient également un contrôle spécial des engagés volontaires.

Toutes les mutations des hommes inscrits sont successivement portées sur ce contrôle, d'après les déclarations faites par les hommes eux-mêmes ou d'après les avis fournis par les Maires des communes.

III.—*Service Militaire.*

Art. 30. Tout habitant indigène de Roumélie déclaré apte au service militaire est appelé à faire partie:—

1. Du premier ban de la milice pendant quatre ans;
2. Du deuxième ban de la milice pendant quatre ans;
3. De la réserve de la milice pendant quatre ans.

Le premier ban de la milice se compose, indépendamment des engagés volontiers appelés à former les cadres permanents de la milice et du Bataillon-école, de tous les hommes déclarés aptes au service et appartenant aux quatre dernières classes appelées.

Le deuxième ban de la milice se compose des hommes déclarés aptes au service et appartenant aux quatre classes qui précèdent immédiatement les quatre classes dont le premier ban de la milice est formé.

La réserve est formée de tous les hommes qui ont accompli huit ans de service dans la milice du premier et du deuxième ban et qui appartiennent aux quatre classes suivantes.

En cas de péril national, tout habitant valide de la province depuis l'âge de 18 ans jusqu'à l'âge de 50 ans est à la disposition du Gouverneur-Général pour la défense du territoire de la province.

Art. 31. Tous les hommes inscrits sur les listes de recensement cantonal qui n'ont pas été exemptés, ajournés, dispensés ou exclus font partie de la milice du premier ban.

Ils sont, en conséquence, inscrits immédiatement sur les contrôles du bataillon de milice du premier ban de leur district de recrutement et mis à la disposition de l'autorité militaire.

Toutefois, sauf le cas de mobilisation, ne sont appelés annuellement à l'activité, dans chaque district de recrutement, qu'un nombre d'hommes égal au quart de l'effectif du pied de guerre du bataillon de milice du premier ban, abstraction faite du cadre permanent.

Ces hommes sont pris, par ordre de numéro de tirage, dans la première partie de la liste de recrutement cantonale. Si deux ou plusieurs cantons sont appelés à faire partie d'un même district de recrutement, une ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général, rendue sur la proposition du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, fixé, proportionnellement au nombre d'hommes déclarés aptes au service, le nombre d'hommes appelés dans chaque canton.

Art. 32. Les hommes inscrits sur la première partie de la liste de recrutement qui, en vertu de l'Article 31, se trouvent en excédant du nombre d'hommes appelés, sont immédiatement classés dans la disponibilité. Ils demeurent à la disposition de l'autorité militaire en cas de mobilisation totale ou partielle. Ils sont tenus, en outre, de prendre part à des exercices de détail faits dans l'intérieur des communes, et peuvent être appelés, si l'état des finances le permet, à l'instruction bi-mensuelle, et aux manœuvres annuelles de la milice du premier ban.

Art. 33. Les jeunes gens dispensés ne peuvent être appelés à l'activité que dans le cas de mobilisation générale de la milice.

Art. 34. L'année de service est comptée à partir du 1er Octobre.

Chaque année, au 30 Septembre, on délivre aux hommes qui ont terminé leur temps de service dans la milice du premier ban, leur temps de service dans la milice du deuxième ban, ou leur temps de service dans la réserve, un certificat de passage du premier au deuxième ban de la milice, du deuxième ban de la milice à la réserve, ou un certificat de libération définitive.

En cas de mobilisation motivée par des circonstances de guerre, ces certificats ne sont délivrés qu'après l'arrivée au corps des hommes de recrue destinés à remplacer les hommes libérés.

Art. 35. Lors de leur passage du premier au deuxième ban, les hommes sont, dans chaque district, rayés des contrôles du bataillon du premier ban, et inscrits sur les contrôles de celui du deuxième ban.

Il est toujours fait mention, dans ces inscriptions, du numéro de tirage de l'homme.

Art. 36. Les hommes qui passent dans la réserve sont inscrits sur un contrôle spécial établi par district. A défaut d'un nombre suffisant de disponibles, ils sont appelés à compléter, en cas de mobilisation générale, l'effectif des bataillons du premier et du deuxième ban de la milice. L'appel a lieu par classe, en commençant par la classe la plus jeune.

Si la mobilisation s'étend seulement à la milice du premier ban, les hommes de complément sont pris parmi les hommes inscrits sur les contrôles du bataillon de milice du deuxième ban, en commençant toujours par la classe la plus jeune, et en suivant, dans chaque classe, l'ordre des numéros de tirage.

Art. 37. Les hommes de la milice peuvent se marier sans autorisation après avoir achevé leur première année de service dans la milice du premier ban. Les hommes mariés restent soumis aux mêmes obligations que les autres hommes de leur classe.

IV.—*Organisation.*

Art. 38. Chacun des douze districts établis conformément aux dispositions de l'Article 8 ci-dessus recrute un bataillon de milice du premier ban, et un bataillon de milice du deuxième ban.

Le Commandant militaire de chaque district est, en même temps, Commandant du bataillon de milice du premier ban du district.

Art. 39. Chaque bataillon de milice du premier ban possède un Etat-Major permanent composé, outre le Commandant du bataillon, de deux officiers, et treize hommes de troupe, savoir :—

Un officier Adjutant-Major de bataillon ; un officier chargé de l'administration du bataillon ; deux sous-officiers et huit soldats (dont trois ordonnances, trois ouvriers, et deux secrétaires) ; un chef-armurier, ayant rang de sous-officier ; deux ouvriers armuriers.

Art. 40. Chaque bataillon du premier ban possède en outre, en temps de paix, une compagnie active, dite compagnie présente, qui a pour destination d'instruire, d'une part, les hommes appartenant à la plus jeune classe de la milice pendant la période d'instruction qu'ils doivent passer sous les drapeaux durant leur première année de service, et, d'autre part, de concourir au maintien de l'ordre public, et de fournir le service de garnison.

La compagnie présente a un cadre permanent composé de :—

Un Capitaine, Commandant de compagnie, un lieutenant, deux sous-lieutenants, un sergent-major de compagnie, cinq sergents, dont un fourrier, neuf caporaux, dont un caporal clairon.

L'effectif des soldats appartenant en permanence aux compagnies présentes est fixé annuellement lors du vote du budget ; il ne peut être inférieur à cinquante hommes par compagnie, non compris les ordonnances et les clairons.

Art. 41. Chaque sergent-major de district est assisté dans son service par un caporal et un soldat secrétaires ; ces hommes comptent pour ordre à la compagnie présente et sont en excédant du cadre réglementaire de la compagnie.

Art. 42. Les bataillons de milice du premier et du deuxième ban sont à quatre compagnies ; leur composition est indiquée au Tableau A ci-annexé.

Art. 43. La milice est placée sous la direction supérieure du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie a le grade d'officier général. L'Etat-Major du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie se compose :—

1. D'un Chef d'Etat-Major, Directeur de la Chancellerie Militaire, ayant sous ses ordres directs deux officiers chefs des bureaux du personnel et du matériel ;
2. D'un officier supérieur, Directeur de l'Administration, ayant sous ses ordres directs deux officiers chefs des bureaux de l'Administration et du Contrôle ;
3. De deux officiers adjoints, faisant aussi fonctions d'aides-de-camp ;
4. D'un certain nombre de sous-officiers, caporaux, et soldats secrétaires.

Art. 44. Indépendamment des bataillons de la milice locale, il est formé un Bataillon-école destiné à compléter et à uniformiser l'instruction des officiers et sous-officiers indigènes de la milice et de la gendarmerie, à former des ouvriers techniques, et à assurer le fonctionnement des établissements militaires.

Le Bataillon-école se compose :—

1. De deux compagnies d'infanterie dont la composition est réglée comme celle des compagnies présentes dans les bataillons de la milice du premier ban ;
2. D'un escadron de cavalerie ;
3. D'une demi-batterie d'artillerie, avec une section d'artificiers et d'armuriers ;
4. D'une compagnie d'ouvriers techniques comprenant une section de sapeurs et une section d'ouvriers constructeurs.

La composition détaillé du Bataillon-école est donnée au Tableau B ci-annexé.

Art. 45. Les officiers, sous-officiers, caporaux, et soldats appartenant à l'Etat-Major de la milice, aux cadres permanents des bataillons, au service du recrutement et au Bataillon-école sont seuls entretenus et soldés aux frais du budget de la province.

Art. 46. L'effectif permanent des cadres présents dont le détail est donné à l'Article 45 se recrute à l'aide d'engagés volontaires, conformément aux dispositions du Titre VI ci-annexé.

A défaut d'un nombre suffisant d'engagés volontaires, cet effectif est complété par le maintien sous les drapeaux d'un certain nombre d'hommes appartenant à la classe la plus jeune de la milice du premier ban ; la durée de leur service est de deux ans au plus. Ces hommes sont pris parmi les numéros les plus bas de la liste du tirage ; le nombre des hommes de cette catégorie est fixé annuellement par Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général rendue dans la forme d'un règlement d'administration publique.

V.—*Instruction.*

Art. 47. L'instruction est donnée aux hommes de la milice du premier ban dans les compagnies présentes de chaque bataillon. La durée de la période d'instruction des jeunes soldats est fixé à deux mois.

A cet effet, les recrues appelées annuellement à l'activité en exécution des dispositions de l'Article 31, sont, lors de leur inscription sur les contrôles du bataillon du premier ban de leur district, réparties entre les quatre compagnies de ce bataillon.

Les recrues appartenant à chacune des quatre compagnies sont appelés, à tour de rôle, de deux mois en deux mois, de façon que l'instruction, commencée au 1er Octobre, soit terminée, dans chaque bataillon, à la fin du huitième mois de la période d'instruction, c'est-a-dire au 31 Mai de l'année suivante.

Art. 48. La période trimestrielle qui suit, comprenant les mois de Juin, Juillet, et Août, est consacrée à l'instruction des officiers et sous-officiers des cadres non-permanents de la milice du premier et du deuxième ban.

Les officiers et sous-officiers appartenant à ces cadres sont tenus de prendre part à ces cours d'instruction à raison de quinze jours par an. Toutefois, des dispenses d'exercices peuvent être accordées, par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, à ceux de ces officiers et sous-officiers qui en font la demande, à la condition que ces dispenses ne soient pas demandées plus d'une fois en deux ans.

Cette disposition ne s'applique pas aux fonctionnaires publics, qui peuvent obtenir des dispenses permanentes si la nature de leurs fonctions l'exige.

Les sous-officiers ont droit, pendant la durée de ce stage, à la nourriture et au logement ; les officiers reçoivent la solde de leur grade.

Art. 49. Le mois de Septembre est consacré aux manœuvres annuelles de la milice, dont la durée ne peut excéder quatre semaines.

Sont appelés à y prendre part tous les hommes du premier ban de la milice, à l'exception de ceux de la classe la plus jeune, et, éventuellement, les miliciens disponibles du premier ban.

Art. 50. Si l'état des finances de la province le permet, un appel analogue pourra être adressé aux hommes du deuxième ban de la milice. La durée de cet appel ne devra pas excéder quinze jours par an.

Les réservistes prennent part aux exercices faits dans les communes, et dont le détail est fixé par décision du Gouverneur-Général.

Art. 51. Les hommes de la milice du premier et du deuxième ban régulièrement convoqués pour prendre part aux manœuvres annuelles ont droit à la nourriture et au logement. La nourriture est fournie par les soins des Municipalités, à charge de remboursement par le budget de la province. Le logement est donné chez les habitants à défaut de place dans les bâtiments militaires. On s'attachera, autant que possible, à loger les miliciens chez leurs coreligionnaires des localités occupées par eux.

Il n'est pas alloué de frais de route aux officiers, sous-officiers, et soldats appelés à prendre part aux manœuvres.

Les officiers des cadres non-permanents reçoivent seulement la solde de leur grade calculée en raison du nombre de jours écoulés entre celui de leur départ et celui de leur retour au lieu ordinaire de leur résidence.

Art. 52. Les manœuvres peuvent avoir lieu par compagnie ou par bataillon, et, éventuellement, par groupes de bataillons. Dans ce dernier cas, les fractions mobiles du Bataillon-école peuvent également être appelées à y participer.

Une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général rendue dans la forme d'un règlement d'administration publique détermine, chaque année, la nature et la durée des

manœuvres. Elles doivent toujours être terminées avant le 1 Octobre, date de l'incorporation des jeunes soldats.

Art. 53. Les officiers et sous-officiers de la milice proposés pour l'avancement aux différents grades d'officiers doivent, en principe, faire un stage d'instruction au Bataillon-école. La durée du stage est de deux mois au moins et ne peut excéder six mois.

Pendant leur séjour au bataillon, les officiers ont droit à la solde de leur grade; les sous-officiers sont seulement logés et nourris.

Tout homme admis à contracter un engagement dans la gendarmerie à cheval est dirigé d'abord sur le Bataillon-école où il suit, pendant six semaines au moins, les exercices de l'escadron de cavalerie. Les officiers promus dans la gendarmerie doivent, de même, aussitôt que possible après leur promotion, faire un stage analogue à l'escadron du Bataillon-école.

VI.—*Engagements et Rengagements.*

Art. 54. Tout habitant indigène de la province peut être admis à contracter un engagement volontaire dans le cadre permanent de la milice du premier ban, ou du Bataillon-école aux conditions suivantes:—

L'engagé volontaire doit:

1. Avoir 18 ans accomplis et l'aptitude physique exigée pour le service militaire;

2. Jouir de ses droits civils et n'avoir pas été condamné à une peine correctionnelle excédant trois mois de prison;

3. N'être ni marié ni veuf avec enfants;

4. Si l'engagé n'a pas 21 ans accomplis, être porteur du consentement de ses père, mère, ou tuteur;

5. Produire les attestations légales d'une bonne conduite soutenue.

Art. 55. La durée de l'engagement est de deux ans. Les années passées au service en qualité d'engagé volontaire sont comptées en déduction du temps de service exigée dans la milice et dans la réserve.

Art. 56. Les miliciens du premier ban, à quelque catégorie qu'ils appartiennent, sont autorisés à contracter des engagements volontaires dans les conditions stipulées aux Articles précédents.

Art. 57. L'engagement volontaire est contracté par devant le sergent-major du district, sur la présentation d'un certificat d'aptitude physique délivré par un médecin désigné par le Commandant Militaire du district.

Art. 58. Le nombre des engagements volontaires recevables et fixé annuellement par le Gouverneur-Général après le vote du budget de la milice.

Les engagements pour les bataillons de milice sont reçus seulement pendant la période de quatre mois qui s'écoule entre la clôture et la reprise de l'instruction annuelle. Les engagements pour le Bataillon-école sont reçus durant toute l'année dans les limites de nombre indiquées à l'alinéa précédent.

Art. 59. Les sous-officiers, caporaux, et soldats servant à titre permanent peuvent être autorisés par leur chef de corps à se rengager pour un an au moins et deux ans au plus.

Les rengagements ne sont plus autorisés quand l'homme a dépassé sa vingt-huitième année, s'il est caporal ou soldat.

Les rengagements des sous-officiers peuvent être autorisés jusqu'à ce que leur temps de service leur donne droit à la retraite.

Art. 60. Tout milicien rengagé a droit, à partir du premier jour de sa cinquième année de service permanent, à une haute paie journalière d'ancienneté dont le chiffre est fixé, pour les soldats, caporaux, et sous-officiers, par le Règlement Provisoire ci-annexé.

Cette haute paie s'augmente annuellement jusqu'à la huitième année de service, après laquelle elle cesse de croître.

Art. 61. Tout milicien rengagé porte sur la manche un chevron en laine; ce chevron est en or pour les sous-officiers et pour les caporaux et soldats ayant six ans de service accomplis.

Art. 62. Les rengagements sont reçus devant le Commandant Militaire du district ou devant le Commandant du Bataillon-école.

VII.—*Mobilisation.*

Art. 63. La mobilisation est partielle ou générale.

La mobilisation partielle est prescrite par une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général rendue dans la forme d'un règlement d'administration publique.

La mobilisation générale ne peut être ordonnée par le Gouverneur-Général qu'après un vote conforme de l'Assemblée Provinciale spécialement convoquée à cet effet, sauf dans le cas prévu à l'Article 2.

Art. 64. En cas de mobilisation du premier ban de la milice, les hommes instruits des quatre classes de cette catégorie appelés au drapeau sont renforcés, s'il est nécessaire, par l'appel des disponibles des mêmes classes, ou par celui des hommes inscrits sur les contrôles du deuxième ban.

Art. 65. Outre le bataillon mobile à quatre compagnies, il est formé alors une section de dépôt, dans laquelle sont encadrés les hommes en excédant de l'effectif normal du bataillon mobile. Le capitaine de la compagnie présente a le commandement de cette section et prend, par intérim, le commandement territorial du district.

Art. 66. La milice du deuxième ban forme, de même en cas de mobilisation, un bataillon mobile à quatre compagnies; l'excédant des hommes est versé dans la section de dépôt commune aux deux bataillons. L'effectif du bataillon est formé des miliciens instruits du deuxième ban, des disponibles appartenant à cette catégorie, et du nombre de réservistes nécessaire.

Art. 67. Si les deux bans de la milice sont mobilisés en même temps, les hommes de complément, pour les bataillons des deux bans, sont pris exclusivement parmi les disponibles et parmi les réservistes.

Art. 68. Dans le cas de mobilisation générale ou partielle, les officiers de tous grades appelés à l'activité ont droit à la solde de leur grade à partir du jour où ils se mettent en route pour rejoindre le corps.

Les hommes de troupe, à l'exception de ceux qui appartiennent aux cadres permanents, ont droit seulement à la nourriture et au logement.

Art. 69. Dans le cas où, par suite de circonstances de guerre, la province se trouverait dégarnie de force militaires suffisantes, le Gouverneur-Général peut organiser, avec les réservistes disponibles, des compagnies ou bataillons provisoires de réserve; ces bataillons, créés en raison du besoin, n'ont pas de cadres permanents.

Art. 70. Il n'est pas formé, en temps ordinaire, de divisions ou brigades.

Les divisions ou brigades temporairement formées à l'occasion des manœuvres n'ont ni Chefs permanents, ni Etats-Majors constitués.

Dans le cas seulement où, par application des dispositions de l'Article 2 ci-dessus, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Sultan viendrait à faire appel au concours militaire de la milice, il pourra être formé des divisions et brigades.

Les brigades seront ordinairement à six bataillons: la division est formée de la réunion de deux à trois brigades.

Les unes et les autres peuvent être composées indistinctement de bataillons du premier ban et de bataillons du deuxième ban de la milice.

Les fonctions de Commandant de division et de brigade seront dévolues, à titre provisoire, aux officiers déjà en service dans la milice.

Art. 71. La création éventuelle d'escadrons de cavalerie, de batteries d'artillerie, de troupes du train, d'hôpitaux, &c., nécessitée par la mise sur le pied de guerre de la milice ou d'une partie de la milice, est ordonnée par une loi provinciale.

Art. 72. Le droit de réquisition est exercé seulement en cas de mobilisation partielle ou générale de la milice, et lorsqu'il est impossible de pourvoir aux besoins par d'autres moyens.

Il est limité, en temps de paix, au logement, à la fourniture des vivres, des fourrages et du chauffage, et à l'occupation ou à l'usage momentané, à l'occasion des manœuvres, de terrains cultivés, bois, fontaines, &c.

Le droit de réquisition appartient seulement au Chef d'une troupe ou détachement, qui l'exerce sous sa responsabilité.

Toute réquisition, à l'exception de celles qui sont relatives au logement ou à l'usage des eaux, donne lieu à la délivrance d'un bon de réquisition remboursable.

Art. 73. En temps de guerre, le droit de réquisition s'étend également aux chevaux, voitures et moyens de transport de toute nature, y compris les chemins de fer; aux embarcations fluviales et maritimes; aux matériaux susceptibles d'être utilisés dans un but de guerre; en un mot, à tous les services et objets dont l'emploi est exceptionnellement nécessité par l'intérêt militaire.

Art. 74. Une loi provinciale, établie sur les bases indiquées aux deux Articles

ci-dessus, fixera les Tarifs d'indemnités allouées en raison des réquisitions et déterminera les conditions d'exercice de ce droit.

Art. 75. En temps de paix comme en temps de guerre, les médecins, officiers de santé et pharmaciens sont astreints, à défaut des membres du corps de santé militaire, à donner leurs soins aux officiers, sous-officiers, et soldats de la milice, et de la gendarmerie présents au corps. Ils doivent également, dans la limite du besoin, concourir à l'organisation et au fonctionnement des hôpitaux temporaires créés, à l'occasion des manœuvres, à proximité du lieu de leur résidence.

Toutes les fois que les soins médicaux à donner aux gendarmes et aux miliciens occasionneront un déplacement d'une heure au moins, il sera alloué aux médecins requis des honoraires calculés à raison de la distance parcourue. Les médicaments fournis seront remboursés aux pharmaciens sur prix de facture.

VIII.—*Administration.*

Art. 76. L'administration et la comptabilité des troupes de la milice sont confiées, en temps de paix, dans chaque district de milice, à l'officier d'Administration adjoint à l'Etat-Major du Commandant Militaire du district.

Cet officier centralise l'administration et la comptabilité des bataillons du premier et du deuxième ban. Il est dirigé et surveillé par une Commission Administrative, dont il fait lui-même partie avec voix délibérative.

Pour toutes les affaires relatives au cadre permanent et au bataillon du premier ban, la Commission Administrative se compose : du Commandant Militaire du district, président ; d'un officier du cadre de la compagnie présente, et de l'officier d'Administration. Elle est complétée par l'adjonction de l'officier commandant le bataillon du deuxième ban et d'un officier de ce bataillon pour toutes les affaires relatives du deuxième ban.

Art. 77. En cas de mobilisation, l'officier d'Administration, qui reste auprès du Commandant de la section de dépôt commune aux bataillons du premier et du deuxième ban, centralise toutes les pièces relatives à l'administration et à la comptabilité des deux bataillons mobiles. Il est remplacé, dans chacun de ces bataillons, par un officier payeur agissant sous la direction d'une Commission provisoire de bataillon, dont il fait partie, et qui se compose du Commandant du bataillon et d'un officier de troupe.

Art. 78. Le Bataillon-école s'administre séparément par les soins de l'officier chargé de l'administration du bataillon et d'une Commission Administrative établie sur les mêmes bases que celles des bataillons de la milice du premier ban.

Si une fraction mobile du Bataillon-école est détachée momentanément, elle est provisoirement administrée par la Commission Administrative du district dans le ressort de laquelle elle se trouve.

Art. 79. Le Contrôle est exercé pour l'officier supérieur attaché à l'Etat-Major du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie en qualité de Directeur de l'Administration et du Contrôle.

Des employés civils, à défaut d'officiers compétents, peuvent être adjoints pour le contrôle des comptes. Il peut en être de même pour les divers emplois administratifs rattachés à l'Etat-Major du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Le service des inspections administratives est confié, jusqu'à la création d'un personnel spécial de Contrôle, à des officiers supérieurs de la milice désignés par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Art. 80. Les dispositions relatives au service de la solde, à la tenue des registres-matricules des corps, à l'établissement des pièces de comptabilité, aux services de l'habillement, de l'armement, du harnachement et du campement, à l'établissement des comptes annuels de gestion et des inventaires, enfin, à la conservation des archives, seront fixées par une loi provinciale, ou, s'il n'y a pas de dépenses engagées, par Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général.

Il y est pourvu, jusqu'à nouvel ordre, en ce qui concerne les dispositions les plus urgentes, par les Titres III, IV, V, et VI du Règlement ci-annexé, qui demeure exécutoire jusqu'au vote de la Loi Provinciale prévue à l'alinéa précédent.

Art. 81. Une loi provinciale déterminera les conditions d'admission à la retraite des officiers, sous-officiers et soldats de la milice et de la gendarmerie, fixera le taux des pensions, celui des gratifications accordées aux militaires infirmes et celui des secours.

IX.—*Dispositions Générales.*

Art. 82. La division du territoire de la province en douze districts de recrutement, conformément aux dispositions de l'Article 8, est établie par une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général rendue dans la forme d'un règlement d'administration publique.

Elle est provisoirement déterminée par le Titre I du Règlement Provisoire ci-annexé.

Art. 83. Conformément aux dispositions du Chapitre I, Article 7, les officiers subalternes de la milice sont nommés par le Gouverneur-Général agissant en vertu de la délégation permanente de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Art. 84. Les conditions de l'avancement dans les cadres permanents et non-permanents de la milice seront fixées par une loi spéciale. Elles sont provisoirement déterminées par le Titre II du Règlement Provisoire ci-annexé.

Art. 85. Les officiers et sous-officiers de nationalité étrangère admis dans la milice par application de l'Article 7 sont liés au service par des contrats établis conformément aux dispositions du Chapitre XIII, Article 20.

Art. 86. La possession des grades, pour les officiers indigènes de la milice, est entourée des garanties stipulées au Chapitre XIII, Articles 21 et 22.

Il est fait application aux sous-officiers et caporaux de la milice des dispositions prescrites au Chapitre XIII, Article 23.

Art. 87. Les dispositions relatives au casernement feront l'objet d'une loi provinciale.

Jusqu'à nouvel ordre, les miliciens présents au drapeau demeureront logés chez l'habitant.

Art. 88. Les armes appartenant aux deux bataillons de milice de chaque district ainsi que les effets d'habillement et d'équipement sont ordinairement déposés dans un magasin spécial placé sous la surveillance du Commandant Militaire du district.

Les miliciens ne sont pas autorisés à emporter leurs effets et leurs armes dans leurs foyers. Il ne pourra être fait exception à cette règle que sur un ordre spécial du Gouverneur-Général, pour permettre certains exercices de tir.

Art. 89. Toute la liberté compatible avec le bien du service est laissée aux hommes de la milice pour l'exécution de leurs devoirs religieux.

Art. 90. Les bataillons de la milice font usage de fanions de bataillon de couleurs variés destinés à les distinguer entre eux. Ces fanions et leurs hampes ne portent pas de signes particuliers autres que les numéros des bataillons.

Art. 91. La valeur d'une organisation militaire ne pouvant être appréciée dans ses détails qu'après expérience, le pouvoir législatif de la province est autorisé, après un délai de deux ans, à partir de la promulgation du présent Statut, à introduire les modifications jugées nécessaires dans les dispositions des Articles 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 34, 41, 42, 43, 44, 48, 49, 50, 51, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 60, 61, 62, 68, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 85, et 86 ci-dessus qui n'ont qu'une portée d'ordre administratif. Ces modifications devront faire l'objet d'une loi provinciale.

Disposition Transitoire.

Art. 92. Jusqu'à la promulgation d'un code pénal militaire et de règlements tactiques et de service spéciaux à la province, il sera fait usage, dans la milice et dans la gendarmerie, du code pénal militaire en vigueur dans l'armée Ottomane et des règlements actuellement en service dans les corps militaires provisoires, créés depuis la paix, sauf les modifications résultant de l'organisation même de la milice.

Chapitre XIII. —Gendarmerie.

I.—*Bases de l'Institution.*

Article 1er. La gendarmerie est une force indigène instituée pour veiller à la sûreté publique et pour assurer le maintien de l'ordre, l'exécution des lois et celle des règlements de police rendus par les autorités compétentes. Une surveillance continue et répressive constitue l'essence de son service ; son action s'exerce dans toute l'étendue du territoire de la province.

Art. 2. La gendarmerie est particulièrement destinée à assurer la sûreté des villes, des campagnes, et des voies de communication. Elle contribue, en outre, de concert avec les agents de la police rurale, à surveiller les lieux publics et à y maintenir l'ordre.

A ce titre, elle est toujours aux ordres des représentants de l'autorité administrative pour dissiper, par les voies légales, les attroupements séditieux.

La gendarmerie est subordonnée également aux fonctionnaires de l'ordre judiciaire pour procéder aux enquêtes et aux recherches, pour en constater les résultats par procès-verbaux et pour opérer les arrestations en vertu de mandats d'amener.

Au cas de flagrant délit ou de suspicion légitimée par des informations probantes, elle a le droit de procéder spontanément aux arrestations, à charge pour elle d'en dresser immédiatement procès-verbal et de conduire, dans les vingt-quatre heures au plus tard, les personnes arrêtées devant l'officier de police judiciaire dans le ressort duquel l'arrestation a eu lieu.

Elle peut enfin être chargé de conduire et d'escorter les prisonniers civils ou militaires, les fous dangereux, les convois d'armes et de munitions, et, d'une manière générale, de remplir toutes les missions qui lui sont confiées par l'autorité administrative pour assurer le maintien de l'ordre à l'intérieur de la province.

Art. 3. La gendarmerie est placée, au point de vue de la discipline, de l'instruction, et de l'Administration intérieures, sous les ordres directs du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Art. 4. La gendarmerie est directement subordonnée à l'autorité administrative et judiciaire pour l'exécution des dispositions contenues à l'Article 11; elle est, en conséquence, tenue d'obéir à toutes les réquisitions qui lui sont adressées par les fonctionnaires indiqués ci-dessus.

Les réquisitions doivent toujours être adressées au Chef du détachement ou, en cas de refus, à celui qui commande immédiatement après lui. Elles doivent être formulées par écrit, si le Chef de Détachement en fait la demande, et ne peuvent être données et exécutées que dans le ressort de celui qui les donne et de celui qui les exécute.

Art. 5. La gendarmerie peut, en cas de besoin, requérir, pour l'exécution de son mandat, ou toutes les fois qu'elle se sent gravement menacée, le concours des agents de la police rurale, des gardes forestiers, et même celui des simples citoyens.

Si elle se sent impuissante à remplir, sans le secours d'une force supplétive, une mission qui lui est confiée, elle prend, vis-à-vis de l'autorité administrative, l'initiative d'une proposition tendant à requérir la coopération des fractions permanentes de la milice locale.

Art. 6. Dans le cas où l'apparition de bandes armées mettrait en danger la sécurité d'une localité qui n'est pas le siége d'un fonctionnaire administratif, la gendarmerie prend immédiatement, à charge d'en rendre compte sans retard, les dispositions nécessaires pour protéger la vie et les biens des citoyens. Elle peut, pour repousser une attaque ou poursuivre les perturbateurs, requérir les agents de la police locale et elle en prend, de droit, le commandement.

Art. 7. Tout gendarme, dans l'exercice de ses fonctions, est investi des pouvoirs dévolus à une sentinelle; toute injure ou tout acte de résistance donne lieu à une poursuite devant les Tribunaux militaires, et la pénalité est la même que pour injure ou rébellion contre une sentinelle.

Art. 8. Les droits et les devoirs du personnel de la gendarmerie, les détails de ses rapports avec les autorités civiles des divers ordres, et les instructions spéciales sur le service ordinaire et extraordinaire seront déterminés par un règlement d'administration publique.

Un règlement annexé à ce Chapitre détermine provisoirement le mode d'application immédiate de ces dispositions.

II.—*Organisation.*

Art. 9. L'unité d'organisation de la gendarmerie est la brigade. La brigade comprend de six à huit hommes.

Elle est composée d'hommes à pied ou d'hommes à cheval; il peut être aussi créé des brigades mixtes, composées d'hommes à pied et d'hommes à cheval.

La brigade est commandée par un sous-officier ou par un brigadier.

Art. 10. La réunion de six à douze brigades constitue la section, sous les ordres d'un officier.

Art. 11. La compagnie est formée par la réunion sous un même commandement de deux à quatre sections. Le Chef de la compagnie est un capitaine.

Art. 12. Les Commandants de compagnie sont établis au chef-lieu des préfectures; leur ressort ne s'étend pas au delà des limites du département.

Les Commandants de section sont placés au chef-lieu des cantons. Deux cantons

peuvent toutefois être réunis pour former le ressort d'une même section; dans ce cas, un sous-officier exerce le commandement direct dans le canton où ne réside pas le Commandant de la section.

Art. 13. En dehors des compagnies de gendarmerie départementale, il est formé, au chef-lieu de la province, un corps de gendarmerie mobile. Ce corps est plus spécialement chargé du service de police urbaine au siége du Gouvernement; il est aussi à la disposition du Gouverneur-Général, qui le dirige sur les points où les circonstances rendent momentanément nécessaire la présence d'une force auxiliaire.

La gendarmerie mobile, dont l'effectif varie selon l'état des ressources financières de la province, comprend un cadre de compagnie d'infanterie et un demi cadre d'escadron.

L'effectif permanent de la compagnie d'infanterie ne pourra être inférieur à soixante-dix hommes, celui de l'escadron à quarante cavaliers.

La gendarmerie mobile est commandée par un capitaine ou par un officier supérieur.

Art. 14. L'Etat-Major du corps de la gendarmerie comprend, en dehors du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie :—

1. Un officier supérieur spécialement chargé du service des inspections et appelé à suppléer en cas d'empêchement le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie;
2. Un capitaine ou officier supérieur, Chef de la Chancellerie;
3. Un officier trésorier;
4. Un officier adjoint au trésorier (facultatif);
5. Un officier chargé de l'habillement, de l'équipement, et de l'armement.

Un petit Etat-Major, composé de sous-officiers, brigadiers et gendarmes, dont l'effectif est déterminé en raison du besoin et des ressources financières, est à la disposition des officiers de l'Etat-Major du corps pour remplir les fonctions de secrétaires et de garde-magasin. Ces hommes sont classés dans la gendarmerie mobile, en excédant du cadre réglementaire.

Il est formé, dans le corps, un Conseil d'Administration composé :—

1. De l'officier supérieur inspecteur, Président du Conseil;
2. Du Chef de la Chancellerie;
3. De l'officier trésorier;
4. De l'officier d'habillement;
5. Du capitaine commandant la compagnie du chef-lieu, ou de l'officier commandant la gendarmerie mobile, à tour de rôle.

Le Conseil est collectivement responsable de la bonne gestion des deniers et matières.

Art. 15. Le Gouverneur-Général détermine, sur la proposition du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, et du Secrétaire-Général Directeur de l'Intérieur, la répartition des sections et des brigades dans les départements et cantons.

Le nombre des brigades et l'effectif des hommes à pied et à cheval sont fixés annuellement, dans les limites indiquées aux Articles 9 et 10, lors du vote du budget par l'Assemblée Provinciale.

La composition intérieure des brigades, en gendarmes à pied, et gendarmes à cheval, est fixée par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, après entente avec le Directeur de l'Intérieur.

Le Gouverneur-Général, sur la proposition du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, et du Secrétaire-Général Directeur de l'Intérieur procède, selon les besoins du service, aux mutations dans le personnel des officiers; les mutations, pour les sous-officiers, brigadiers et gendarmes, sont ordonnées par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Art. 16. Les officiers commandant les sections, et les captaines commandant les compagnies remplissent, respectivement, les fonctions de Commissaires et de Commissaires centraux de police, dans le ressort de leur section de leur compagnie.

Par exception, le capitaine commandant la compagnie départementale du chef-lieu de la province n'est pas investi de ces fonctions pour cette ville elle-même. Celles-ci sont dévolues au Commandant de la gendarmerie mobile, qui est assisté, dans ce service, par les officiers subalternes placés sous ses ordres directs.

Art. 17. Les Préfets sont autorisés à modifier temporairement, en cas de besoin, l'état de répartition des brigades, en détachant, sur un point donné, le nombre de gendarmes qu'ils jugent nécessaire.

Ils transmettent, à cet effet, des ordres aux Commandants de compagnie, qui sont tenus d'y déférer immédiatement. Les Préfets doivent en rendre compte sans retard

au Secrétaire-Général Directeur de l'Intérieur. Les Commandants de compagnie, de leur côté, informent le commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

III.—*Dispositions Générales.*

Art. 18. Conformément aux dispositions du Chapitre I, Article 7, les officiers subalternes de la gendarmerie sont nommés par le Gouverneur-Général agissant en vertu de la délégation permanente de Sa Majesté le Sultan. Ils sont recrutés, soit parmi les officiers de la milice, sur la proposition de leurs chefs hiérarchiques, soit parmi les sous-officiers du corps de la gendarmerie, conformément aux dispositions réglementaires sur l'avancement.

A défaut de candidats de ces deux catégories, et, en particulier, pour la période d'organisation, le Gouverneur-Général est autorisé à nommer, sur la proposition d'une Commission présidée par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, soit des habitants de la province, soit des militaires ou d'anciens militaires étrangers.

Les uns et les autres ne sont toutefois admis qu'après constatation de leur aptitude technique.

Art. 19. Les sous-officiers et gendarmes de première classe sont nommés par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie sur des états de propositions établis par les Commandants de compagnie et approuvés par les Préfets.

Art. 20. Les officiers et sous-officiers de nationalité étrangère peuvent, en exécution des dispositions de l'Article 18, être admis dans la gendarmerie de la Roumélie Orientale, en vertu de contrats renouvelables à durée limitée; ces contrats, qui déterminent la durée de leur engagement, le grade qui leur est attribué, et le dédit pécuniaire qui leur est alloué en cas de résiliation anticipée, doivent être approuvés par une délibération spéciale du Comité Permanent.

Ces contrats ne peuvent, de même, être résiliés par le Gouverneur-Général que sur l'avis conforme du dit Comité.

Dans le cas où un officier étranger serait révoqué comme coupable d'un crime ou délit, en vertu d'un Arrêt du Conseil de Guerre, le contrat se trouve résilié de fait et l'officier perd tout droit au paiement d'une indemnité.

Art. 21. La possession des grades conférés aux officiers originaires de la province ou qui ont acquis l'indigénat est entourée des garanties ci-après indiquées:

Tout officier indigène ne peut être suspendu ou révoqué que par décision du Gouverneur-Général ou par Arrêt du Conseil de Guerre.

La suspension est prononcée par le Gouverneur-Général sur la proposition du Conseil Privé. La durée de la suspension par mesure disciplinaire ne peut excéder six mois; elle est d'un an au plus, lorsqu'elle est prononcée pour cause d'infirmités temporaires. A l'expiration de cette période de six mois ou d'un an, le Gouverneur-Général soumet au Comité Permanent la question de la réintégration de l'officier; le Comité formule un avis motivé concluant à la révocation, à la mise à la retraite, ou à la révocation de l'officier.

L'officier suspendu conserve la qualité d'officier; il a droit, pendant la durée de sa suspension, à une solde de non-activité, à la condition de fixer sa résidence dans une localité déterminée par le Gouverneur-Général. Tout refus d'obéissance de sa part entraîne de droit la révocation.

La révocation ne peut être prononcée par le Gouverneur-Général que sur l'avis conforme du Comité Permanent de l'Assemblée Provinciale; la décision affirmative de ce Comité n'oblige toutefois le Gouverneur-Général à prononcer la révocation que dans le cas de récidive.

La révocation par Arrêt du Conseil de Guerre est prononcée en conformité des lois militaires en vigueur dans la province.

L'officier révoqué perd tous ses droits à la retraite, aux honneurs, et à la solde de son grade, et cesse d'appartenir au corps de la gendarmerie.

Art. 22. Les décisions relatives à la suspension ou à la révocation sont immédiatement exécutoires; il ne peut y être fait appel.

Par exception à cette disposition générale, le Gouverneur-Général est obligé de soumettre à la ratification de Sa Majesté le Sultan l'arrêté de révocation rendu contre tout officier supérieur. Jusqu'à l'arrivée de la décision Impériale le concernant, l'officier supérieur mis en cause est seulement considéré comme suspendu.

Art. 23. La cassation et la rétrogadation des sous-officiers et brigadiers sont prononcées par le Gouverneur-Général sur la proposition du Conseil d'Administration du corps, qui remplit, en ces circonstances, le rôle de Conseil de Discipline.

La suspension, pour les sous-officiers et brigadiers, et la cassation, pour les gendarmes de première classe, sont prononcées par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

La durée de la suspension ne peut excéder trois mois.

Art. 24. La composition du personnel de la gendarmerie est réglée par le Gouverneur-Général, sur la proposition collective du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie et du Secrétaire-Général Directeur de l'Intérieur, de façon à établir une proportion équitable entre les divers éléments de la population de la province.

Cette proportion devra se trouver, autant que possible, dans la constitution des cadres.

Il sera tenu compte des mêmes principes pour la répartition des membres de la gendarmerie entre les différentes localités.

Art. 25. La gendarmerie est recrutée par voie d'engagements volontaires.

Ne sont admis à s'engager dans la gendarmerie que les hommes ayant terminé leur première année de service dans la milice locale. Cette disposition sera exécutoire deux ans seulement après la promulgation du présent Statut.

La durée du premier engagement est de deux ans. Il peut être renouvelé d'année en année, jusqu'à ce que l'homme ait atteint vingt-cinq ans de services effectifs, époque à laquelle il a droit à la retraite.

Le Gouverneur-Général est toujours en droit d'annuler les engagements.

Art. 26. Nul ne peut être admis à s'engager comme gendarme:

1. S'il ne produit les attestations légales d'une bonne conduite soutenue;
2. S'il n'est doué d'une bonne constitution.

Nul ne peut être admis comme brigadier ou être promu à ce grade, s'il ne sait lire et écrire dans une des trois langues principales de la province.

Art. 27. Tout gendarme rengagé a droit, à partir du premier jour de sa cinquième année de service dans la gendarmerie, à une haute-paie journalière d'ancienneté, dont le chiffre est fixé, pour les soldats, brigadiers, et sous-officiers, par le Règlement Provisoire ci-annexé.

Cette haute-paie s'augmente annuellement jusqu'à la huitième année de service, après laquelle elle cesse de croître.

Tout gendarme rengagé porte sur la manche un chevron en laine: ce chevron est en or pour les sous-officiers et pour les gendarmes ayant six ans de services accomplis.

Art. 28. Tout ancien gendarme qui rentre dans ses foyers après huit années de service, et qui est porteur d'un certificat de bonne conduite délivré par le Conseil d'Administration du corps, est exempt des corvées et des prestations en nature pour les travaux de voirie et la fourniture ou la conduite des chevaux et voitures de réquisition.

Art. 29. Une loi provinciale fixera la solde des officiers, sous-officiers, et gendarmes, déterminera l'uniforme, l'équipement, et l'armement, et réglera les Tarifs des frais de tournées supplémentaires, indemnités, et gratifications. Elle déterminera l'organisation des services de la remonte, des fourrages du casernement et des vivres, ainsi que celui des pensions et secours. Des dispositions spéciales seront prises pour assurer l'instruction des enfants des gendarmes mariés.

Les plus urgentes de ces dispositions sont déterminées, à titre provisoire, par le règlement ci-annexé, qui demeure exécutoire jusqu'au vote de la loi provinciale prévue à l'alinéa précédent.

Art. 30. Le pouvoir législatif de la province est autorisé, après un délai de deux ans à partir de la promulgation du présent Statut, à introduire les modifications jugées nécessaires dans les dispositions des Articles 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, 25, 27, et 28 ci-dessus, qui n'ont qu'une portée d'ordre administratif.

Ces modifications devront faire l'objet d'une loi provinciale.

La continuation des débats sur les Chapitres XII et XIII (discussion des annexes et règlements) est remise à la prochaine séance.

La Commission vote des remerciements au Général Sir Collingwood Dickson et au Capitaine de Torcy, pour le précieux concours qu'ils ont prêté à MM. de Ring et Schepelew pendant l'élaboration des Chapitres XII et XIII.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, en son nom et en celui du Général Sir Collingwood Dickson, croit devoir exprimer tout particulièrement sa vive reconnaissance au Capitaine de Torcy, lequel, durant la préparation du travail qui vient d'être voté par la Commission, a fait preuve de connaissances spéciales et étendues.

Lord Donoughmore soumet à l'examen de la Commission une demande de crédit

supplémentaire adressée au Directeur-Général des Finances par le Gouverneur de Philippopoli. Ce crédit est destiné à couvrir les frais d'habillement des agents de police de l'arrondissement de Philippopoli.

Le crédit demandé est voté à l'unanimité.

Le Baron de Ring dépose sur le bureau le projet du Chapitre XI: "Cultes."

La Commission décide que ce travail sera imprimé et distribué.

M. de Kallay dépose sur le bureau le projet du Chapitre XV, concernant les fonctionnaires, rédigé par lui de concert avec M. de Braunschweig.

La Commission décide que ce travail sera imprimé et distribué.

Une séance extraordinaire est fixée au 20 Mars, pour entendre le Rapport de MM. de Coutouly et Schmidt sur leur voyage à Yamboli et à Slivno.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée au 22 Mars:

1. Le Chapitre XI: "Cultes;"
2. Le Chapitre XV;
3. La continuation du débat sur les Chapitres XII et XIII: "Milice locale et Gendarmerie."

La séance est levée à 6 heures et demie.

(Signé) RING.
V. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
DONOUGHMORE.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 704.

Protocole No. 56.—Séance du 19 Mars, 1879 (28 *Rébi-ul-Ewel*, 1296), *à la Maison de la Commission Européenne, à Philippopoli.*

Présidence de M. le BARON DE RING.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring,
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff,
Le Comte de Donoughmore.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schepelew,
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Le Protocole No. 55, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

Le Président dépose sur le bureau une pétition adressée à la Commission par les Grecs de Kavakli, en disant que cette pétition lui paraît mériter l'attention de la Commission.

Le Chevalier Vernoni dépose sur le bureau le projet du Chapitre VIII: "Agriculture, Commerce et Travaux Publics," préparé par lui.

La Commission décide que ce travail sera imprimé et distribué.

L'ordre du jour appelle la discussion sur le Chapitre XI: "Cultes," projet du Baron de Ring.

M. Rozet donne lecture de ce travail:

XI.—*Cultes.*

Article 1er. Les communautés religieuses ayant une existence légale en Roumélie Orientale conserveront les droits, immunités, priviléges et exemptions dont elles jouissaient avant la guerre.

Art. 2. Aucune entrave ne pourra être apportée, soit à l'organisation hiérarchique des différentes communautés, soit à leurs rapports avec leurs Chefs spirituels, indigènes ou étrangers.

Art. 3. Les membres des différents clergés ne pourront, sous aucun prétexte, être privés en Roumélie Orientale des honneurs et préséances que les Sultans leur ont accordés.

Art. 4. Les ecclésiastiques, les pèlerins, et les moines de toutes les nationalités voyageant ou établis temporairement en Roumélie Orientale jouiront des avantages acquis aux membres indigènes des clergés dont ils font partie.

Art. 5. Le droit de protection officielle est reconnu aux Agents Consulaires des Puissances en Roumélie Orientale, tant à l'égard des personnes sus-mentionnées qu'à l'égard de leurs établissements religieux et de bienfaisance.

Les droits reconnus *ab antiquo* à la France sont expressément réservés.

Art. 6. Nulle communauté nouvelle ne pourra être investie de droits, immunités, priviléges et exemptions égaux ou analogues à ceux dont jouissent les communautés religieuses légalement constituées, si ce n'est en vertu d'une loi provinciale.

Toutefois les personnes qui n'appartiennent à aucun culte reconnu pourront pratiquer le leur à domicile, pourvu qu'il n'ait rien de contraire aux bonnes mœurs et à l'ordre publique. Elles devront d'ailleurs se conformer aux lois et règlements sur la matière.

Art. 7. Les communautés religieuses ayant une existence légale en Roumélie Orientale conserveront leurs biens meubles et immeubles.

Elles ne pourront être expropriées de leurs biens immeubles que pour cause d'utilité publique dûment constatée, dans les cas et de la manière établis par la loi, moyennant une juste et préalable indemnité.

Elles ne pourront être expropriées de leurs biens meubles que pour satisfaire à un intérêt majeur de salubrité publique.

Par application du principe inscrit au deuxième alinéa ci-dessus, les vacoufs seront rachetés ainsi qu'ils est disposé aux Articles . . . . du Chapitre XIV.

Art. 2. Les communautés religieuses continuent à percevoir, avec l'aide et sous la protection des autorités publiques, les redevances consacrées par l'usage. Le montant de ces redevances ne pourra être élevé qu'en vertu d'une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général ratifiée par un vote de l'Assemblée Provinciale.

Les produits des redevances en question échappent à l'impôt.

Art. 9. Sont pareillement exempts d'impôts les édifices consacrés au culte, à l'instruction, ou à un but de charité, ainsi que les habitations de ville et de campagne des membres des différents clergés; enfin les enclos où se trouvent ces édifices et habitations.

Le même privilége s'étend au mobilier des édifices consacrés au culte, à l'instruction, ou à un but charitable; il s'étend aussi aux meubles à l'usage des membres du clergé et de toute personne attachée, à un titre quelconque, au service d'un édifice religieux, scolaire ou charitable.

Art. 10. Par contre les différentes communautés seront tenues de faire face aux charges qui pèsent actuellement sur elle en ce qui concerne l'entretien de leurs établissements scolaires et charitables.

Art. 11. Les immeubles appartenant aux communautés religieuses et qui ne servent directement ni au culte, ni à l'instruction, ni à un but charitable, mais qui doivent être considérés comme des propriétés de rapport sont, en matière d'impôt, soumis au droit commun.

Il en est de même des valeurs mobilières ayant le caractère de propriétés de rapport.

Art. 12. Les Evêques et généralement tous les Chefs des communautés religieuses Chrétiennes recevront désormais leur investiture du Gouverneur-Général, qui la leur accordera au nom et par délégation de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Le Baron de Ring déclare que, tout en votant les divers Articles du Chapitre XI, il réserve son votre sur l'ensemble du dit Chapitre.

Le Président relit et met aux voix les Articles 1, 2, 3, et 4 du Chapitre XI.

La Commission adopte.

Le Président relit l'Article 5.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff propose d'amender comme suit l'Article 5:

"Article 5. Les dispositions de l'Article 62 du Traité de Berlin relatives à la protection des personnes sus-mentionées et de leurs établissements religieux et de bienfaisance, recevront leur plein effet dans la Roumélie Orientale."

Le Président met cet amendement aux voix.

Six Commissaires l'acceptent.

Le Délégué de France réserve son vote.

En conséquence, l'Article 5 reste ouvert.

Le Président relit l'Article 6.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff croit que l'Article 6, tel qu'il se trouve redigé dans le projet du Baron de Ring, est en désaccord avec le principe de la libre pratique de tous les cultes, établi par l'Article LXII du Traité de Berlin. Il ne voudrait voir mettre aucune entrave à l'exercice des cultes qui ne sont pas reconnus actuellement dans la province.

Le Baron de Ring fait observer à Sir Henry Drummond Wolff que les communautés religieuses reconnues dans le pays sont investies de certains droits politiques confirmés et développés par le Statut Organique et qu'elles n'ont pas, en conséquence, le caractère de simples agglomérations d'individus professant le même culte: "Ce sont ces droits politiques que l'Article 6 refuse aux communautés nouvelles," dit le Commissaire de France, "et non la libre pratique de leur culte, qui est suffisamment garantie par le second alinéa."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff dit qu'il n'entre pas dans ses désirs d'accorder à des communautés religieuses autres que celles reconnues *ab antiquo* dans le pays, des droits et priviléges politiques, mais que l'Article 6 est, à son avis, de nature à restreindre la liberté de l'exercice extérieur de tous les cultes, établie par le Traité de Berlin.

Après une courte discussion, la Commission adopte l'Article 6 modifié comme suit:

"Art. 6. Nulle communauté nouvelle ne pourra être investie de droits, immunités, priviléges, et exemptions, égaux ou analogues à ceux dont jouissent les communautés religieuses légalement constituées, si ce n'est en vertu d'une loi provinciale.

"Toutefois les personnes qui n'appartiennent à aucun culte reconnu pourront pratiquer le leur, pourvu qu'il n'ait rien de contraire aux bonnes mœurs et à l'ordre public. Elles devront d'ailleurs se conformer aux lois et règlements sur la matière."

Le Président relit l'Article 7.

La Commission décide que le dernier alinéa concernant le rachat des vacoufs, dont il sera spécialement traité au Chapitre XIV, est supprimé. Cette modification faite, l'Article 7 est adopté.

Le Président relit l'Article 8.

Après une courte discussion, l'Article 8 est adopté dans la forme suivante:—

"Art. 8. Les communautés religieuses continuent à percevoir, avec l'aide et sous la protection des autorités publiques, les redevances consacrées par l'usage. Le montant de ces redevances ne pourra être élevé qu'en vertu d'une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général rendue en la forme d'un règlement d'administration publique.

"Les produits des redevances en question échappent à l'impôt."

Le Président relit, et met aux voix, les Articles 9, 10, et 11.

La Commission adopte.

Le Président relit l'Article 12.

Le Chevalier Vernoni propose de modifier le texte de l'Article 12 de la manière suivante:—

"Art. 12. Les Evêques et, généralement, tous les Chefs des communautés religieuses non-Musulmanes, qui recevaient précédemment leur investiture de la Sublime Porte, la recevront désormais du Gouverneur-Général, qui la leur accordera au nom et par délégation de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan."

Le Baron de Ring dit qu'il est prêt à accepter l'amendement du Chevalier Vernoni, que ne modifie pas le sens du projet:—

"Le Traité de Berlin," ajoute le Commissaire de France, "garantit à toutes les communautés religieuses les droits dont elles jouissaient jusqu'ici; c'est en vue d'assurer en Roumélie Orientale l'application complète de ce principe que j'ai cru utile de transférer au Gouverneur-Général, dont l'autorité est d'ailleurs une émanation du pouvoir de Sa Majesté le Sultan, le droit qui appartient aujourd'hui à la Sublime Porte de donner leurs investitures aux Chefs indigènes des différentes communautés religieuses non-Musulmanes. Il est prouvé que la nécessité dans laquelle se trouvaient les Evêques de recevoir le 'bérat' à Constantinople donnait lieu à bien des inconvénients. C'est ainsi que la communauté Bulgare, dont l'existence est pourtant légalement garantie, cherche en vain depuis quelque temps à obtenir l'installation de nouveaux Evêques dans les diocèses vacants de la Macédoine; les demandes de l'Exarchat, non-seulement n'ont pas été prises en considération, elles n'ont pas même été discutées par la Sublime Porte. Il est évident que si des faits pareils se reproduisaient en Roumélie Orientale, la hiérarchie de l'Eglise Bulgare y serait promptement désorganisée. On pourrait m'objecter, il est vrai, que l'inertie de la Sublime Porte à l'endroit de la nomination des Evêques Bulgares dans la Macédoine s'explique par la situation anormale du pays; mais dans les rangs du clergé Bulgare on envisage cette inertie comme le résultat d'un calcul destiné à amener la ruine de l'Eglise, et médiatement de la nationalité Bulgare dans cette province.

"Sans nous arrêter à cette opinion, nous reconnaîtrons, Messieurs, que l'Europe ne fera jamais la guerre à l'Empire Ottoman pour le contraindre à délivrer des 'bérats,' et, par conséquent, l'Eglise Bulgare de Roumélie sera à la merci des fluctuations politiques qui pourront à un moment donné se produire à Constantinople, si nous ne prenons nos précautions dans le Statut. En négligeant ce soin, nous placerions l'Eglise

Bulgare dans une étroite dépendance de la Russie, la seule Puissance qui se soit trouvée jusqu'ici toujours prête à intervenir en sa faveur.

"La disposition que je suggère dans mon projet est de nature à garantir d'une manière efficace et uniforme les droits de toutes les communautés religieuses; elle fera de l'Article LXII du Traité de Berlin une vérité."

Le Prince Tzeretelew dit que les Commissaires de Russie croient que l'Article 12, rédigé par M. de Ring et amendé par M. Vernoni, est acceptable pour tout le monde. "Quant à nous," ajoute le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie, "nous le votons avec d'autant plus de plaisir qu'il nous semble destiné, non-seulement à assurer la mise en pratique des droits reconnus aux communautés religieuses par le Traité de Berlin, mais encore à prévenir les malentendus regrettables qui ne cessent de se produire entre la Sublime Porte et les Chefs des communautés. Les exemples cités par le Baron de Ring sont suffisamment convaincants, et je n'aurai que peu de choses à ajouter aux arguments dont s'est servi le Commissaire de France. Je rappellerai seulement que nos collègues Ottomans ont souvent insisté sur ce point que le futur Gouverneur-Général, tenant son pouvoir du Sultan, et choisi avec l'assentiment des Puissances, présentera toutes les garanties voulues de bonne administration. Le droit d'accorder les 'bérats' aux Prélats pourra donc être facilement délégué au premier fonctionnaire de la province, et cette délégation ne manquera pas d'avoir un résultat bienfaisant sur les rapports entre le Gouvernement Central et les différentes communautés religieuses."

Son Excellence Assim Pacha croit que l'Article 12, tel qu'il est rédigé, est contraire aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin. Cet Article lèse en outre les droits des Patriarcats de Constantinople dont ce Traité a maintenu les priviléges, et il apporte à l'ancien état des choses une modification dont l'utilité est très-contestable, car les Chefs religieux habitant Constantinople auront plus de facilité à s'adresser à la Sublime Porte qu'au Gouverneur-Général.

Abro Effendi ajoute à ce qui vient d'être dit qu'il est persuadé que les Patriarches siégeant à Constantinople protesteront contre la rédaction actuelle.

M. de Kallay ne voit en pratique aucun danger à accepter la proposition du Baron de Ring; pourtant il ne partage pas les appréhensions du Baron de Ring et du Prince Tzeretelew sur les futurs rapports de la Sublime Porte avec les différentes communautés religieuses; car les exemples qui ont été cités ne sont que des exceptions d'une nature passagère:—

"Mais," dit le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie, "la question tout entière est compliquée par un problème de droit, et je ne crois pas que la Commission soit compétente pour le résoudre. En effet, d'un côté, le Sultan jouit, du fait même de sa souveraineté, du droit d'investiture; et, de leur côté, les Chefs des communautés religieuses résidant à Constantinople ont privilége antérieurement acquis de s'adresser pour les investitures directement au pouvoir central. Aussi, sans rejeter d'une manière absolue l'Article 12 du projet du Baron de Ring, tel qu'il se trouve amendé par M. Vernoni, je devrai m'abstenir de me prononcer sur une question que je ne crois pas en droit de trancher."

Le Colonel Schepelew dit qu'à son avis les droits de Sa Majesté le Sultan ne souffriront aucune atteinte si le pouvoir d'accorder les bérats d'investiture est délégué au Gouverneur-Général. Des dispositions analogues, concernant la nomination de certains fonctionnaires de la province, ont déjà été introduites dans le Statut; d'autre part le Premier Commissaire de Russie croit que les Chefs de communautés religieuses résidant à Constantinople ne considéreront nullement comme une diminution de leurs priviléges la faculté qui leur sera accordée de s'adresser pour les bérats au Gouverneur-Général.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff déclare qu'il ne pourra voter ni le texte primitif de l'Article 12, ni l'amendement de M. Vernoni, et qu'il partage entièrement les scrupules qui poussent M. de Kallay à s'abstenir de se prononcer dans la question débattue.

Le Baron de Ring dit que la disposition qu'il voudrait voir adopter par la Commission est ardemment désirée par la population, et que les membres du clergé insistent beaucoup sur sa nécessité: "Il ne faudrait pas," ajoute le Commissaire de France, "rendre la position des Bulgares intolérable et les pousser à y chercher remède dans une révolution; il ne faudrait pas travailler à rendre irrésistible la tendance vers la réunion de la Roumélie Orientale à la Principauté de Bulgarie. Aussi suis-je d'avis que dans cette circonstance la Commission devrait satisfaire à un vœu légitime et fondé du pays."

Le Chevalier Vernoni dit qu'il se joint au Baron de Ring pour demander que les

droits des communautés religieuses soient pleinement garantis: son amendement n'avait pas d'autre but.

Mais la discussion qui vient d'avoir lieu a démontré qu'il y aurait des inconvénients pratiques à adopter cet amendement dans sa forme actuelle; en effet, il serait difficile d'astreindre les Chefs des communautes religieuses résidant à Constantinople à s'adresser pour les bérats au chef-lieu de la province. Le Chef de l'Eglise Bulgare seul habitera peut-être la Roumélie Orientale: aussi, le Commissaire d'Italie propose-t-il le sous-amendement suivant l'Article 12.

"Art. 12. Les Prélats de la Communauté Bulgare pourront désormais recevoir l'investiture soit directement de la Sublime Porte, soit du Gouverneur-Général qui la leur donnera au nom et par délégation de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan; quant aux Chefs des autres communautés religieuses qui recevaient précédemment leur investiture de la Sublime Porte, ils continueront à la recevoir comme par le passé."

Les Commissaires de Russie auraient désiré voir adopter la première rédaction de M. Vernoni, car elle n'établissait aucune différence entre la situation des différentes communautés religieuses. Néanmoins, si le sous-amendement qui vient d'être formulé par le Commissaire d'Italie obtient les voix de tous leurs collègues, ils sont prêts à le voter aussi.

Le Baron de Ring préfère également le premier amendement de M. Vernoni, mais ne fera pas d'opposition au second.

Les Commissaires d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, et *de la Grande Bretagne,* acceptent l'amendement de M. Vernoni, les *Commissaires de Turquie* l'acceptent personnellement, mais en se réservant de demander l'opinion de la Sublime Porte à ce sujet.

En conséquence l'Article 12 reste ouvert.

L'ordre du jour appelle le débat sur le Chapitre XV concernant les fonctionnaires.

M. Rozet donne lecture de ce travail:

"Chapitre XV.

"Article 1er. Les fonctionnaires tant nommés qu'élus sont personnellement responsables envers l'Etat de tous les actes accomplis par eux dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions.

"L'Etat est directement responsable de toutes pertes et dommages causés aux particuliers par la négligence ou le mauvais vouloir des fonctionnaires.

"Il a le droit de poursuivre les fonctionnaires coupables pour recouvrer les indemnités payées par lui du chef de ces pertes et dommages.

"Pour leurs actes privés, les fonctionnaires sont soumis aux mêmes responsabilités que les autres citoyens.

"Art. 2. Les peines disciplinaires contre les fonctionnaires sont: la réprimande, l'amende, et la suspension de leurs fonctions.

"Ces peines sont prononcées, quand il s'agit de Magistrats—par le Tribunal de l'Instance Supérieure, quand il s'agit des Magistrats de la Cour d'Appel—par les sections réunies de cette même cour, et quand il s'agit des autres fonctionnaires—par l'autorité dont ceux-ci relèvent immédiatement.

"Art. 3. Nul fonctionnaire ne peut être destitué, ni mis à la retraite contre son gré, sans jugement.

"Tout fonctionnaire, nommé par l'Etat et jouissant d'un traitement régulier porté sur le budget de la province, a droit à une pension. Cette pension commence après dix ans de service et atteint le total du dernier traitement après quarante ans de services non interrompus.

"Art. 4. Les fonctionnaires engagés par contrats ne peuvent avoir d'autres prétentions vis-à-vis de la province que celles qui découlent des contrats mêmes.

"Art. 5. Une loi provinciale fixera les détails d'application des stipulations contenues dans les quatre Articles précédents, en tant qu'il n'y est pas déjà pourvu par le présent Statut.

"Art. 6. Le traitement du Gouverneur-Général est fixé à 60,000 fr. par an et à 20,000 fr. de frais extraordinaires.

"Le traitement des Directeurs-Généraux est fixé provisoirement à 1,000 fr. par mois. Celui de tous les autres fonctionnaires sera fixé, à titre provisoire, par des Ordonnances du Gouverneur-Général.

"L'Assemblée Provinciale, dans sa première Session, fixera d'une manière définitive

le traitement de tous les fonctionnaires. Celui du Gouverneur-Général ne pourra pas être modifiée."

La Commission décide que le titre et le numéro de ce Chapitre seront définis par la Commission à la seconde lecture du Statut Organique.

Le Président relit les Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, et 5.

Après une courte discussion, la Commission adopte.

Il est décidé ensuite que l'Article 6 restera ouvert, la Commission ne possédant pas encore toutes les données nécessaires pour résoudre la question des traitements d'une manière satisfaisante.

M. de Coutouly donne lecture de la lettre suivante adressé par M. Schmidt au Président temporaire de la Commission Européenne :—

"M. le Président, "*Philippopoli, le* $\frac{9}{21}$ *Mars*, 1879.

"Dans plusieurs Rapports adressés au Comité des Finances, j'ai signalé à la Commission Européenne les obstacles auxquels se heurte l'Administration Financière, et j'ai cru nécessaire de mettre ma responsabilité à couvert par une déclaration formelle dans mon Rapport du $\frac{29 \text{ Janvier}}{10 \text{ Février}}$, 1879.

"Les entraves proviennent pour la plus grande partie de l'attitude des autorités Russes qui, d'une part, méconnaissent les droits donnés à la Commission Européenne en matière de finances, droits définis par la Résolution du $\frac{5}{17}$ Octobre, 1878; et qui, d'autre part, ne peuvent pas ou ne veulent pas faire respecter par la population l'autorité de la Commission Européenne.

"Les dernières semaines, au lieu d'amélior l'état de choses, dont la Commission a eu si souvent à se plaindre, ont au contraire ajouté aux griefs précédents.

"Vous connaissez les derniers événements de Haskeui, Yamboli, et Slivno; ils parlent assez haut.

"Aujourd'hui même, j'ai reçu un rapport du Directeur des Contributions Indirectes de Philippopoli, qui me dit que deux surveillants envoyés dans le Canton d'Aftché-Holma ont été expulsés par la population.

"Ces employés étaient munis de lettres de la Direction Générale et du Chef d'Arrondissement de Philippopoli. Mais les habitants, assurés de l'impunité par les précédents de Yéni-Zaghra, Haskeui, Tchirpan, Abrachlari, et Yamboli, ou du moins certains de n'être condamnés qu'à des peines insignifiantes, tout-à-fait hors de proportion avec la gravité des fautes, préfèrent naturellement ne pas recevoir les employés des finances, afin de se soustraire à toute contribution. Pourtant le produit des impôts serait principalement affecté au paiement des frais d'occupation de l'armée Russe, payables par la province.

"Certains Chefs d'Arrondissement refusent de se conformer aux prescriptions de la Direction Générale des Finances, pour le contrôle de leurs dépenses, prescriptions qui ont été communiquées par moi à son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général, sans provoquer de sa part une réplique quelconque.

"Les autorités civiles continuent à donner des ordres aux caissiers et à effectuer elles-mêmes des dépenses sur les revenus du pays, sans consulter la Direction Générale des Finances; et le Gouverneur-Général lui-même a autorisé certaines de ces dépenses.

"Le Gouverneur de Philippopoli a récemment donné l'ordre à vos caissiers de lui délivrir les archives jusqu'au 31 Décembre, 1878 (pièces justificatives de la Caisse) comme si ces fonctionnaires étaient placés sous son autorité.

"La vraie Administration Financière reste toujours,—malgré nos réclamations réitérées,—entre les mains des Conseils d'Arrondissement, qui dépendent uniquement des Gouverneurs; or, vous savez combien il est difficile d'obtenir de ces Conseils les renseignements nécessaires, et quelles pertes de temps sont résultées pour nous de leur négligence ou de leur mauvais vouloir.

"Les municipalités auxquelles l'autorité Russe impose des dépenses dépassant leurs forces, empiètent sur les revenus de l'Etat, et il n'a pas été possible jusqu'à présent de défendre les intérêts du fisc.

"La population Bulgare est profondément agitée et s'oppose aux fonctionnaires de la Commission Européenne. L'autorité Russe est incapable de protéger ces employés et de leur assurer le libre exercice de leurs fonctions.

"L'autorité civile n'a fait rien de sérieux contre les promoteurs des séditions de Yéni-Zaghra, Haskeui, Tchirpan, et Abrachlari; quant aux mesures que M. le Gouverneur-Général a déclaré vouloir ordonner pour châtier les coupables de Yamboli et de Slivno, M. de Coutouly vous les a fait connaître.

"A vous de juger si elles sont proportionnées à la gravité des désordres, et de nature à prévenir le retour d'émeutes semblables, étant donnée la surexcitation extraordinaire d'une population armée par l'autorité Russe pour s'opposer, dans un avenir prochain, aux fonctionnaires du Sultan, et qui assimile à ces fonctionnaires les employés de la Commission Européenne.

"L'indulgence de l'autorité Russe à l'égard des démonstrations et de la résistance violente aux fonctionnaires de la Commission Européenne doit nécessairement encourager la population, qui, mal éclairée, croit accomplir une œuvre patriotique, et qui compte trouver grâce devant les autorités Russes.

"Rien n'a été fait par l'autorité civile pour éclairer la population sur le véritable caractère de l'Administration Financière.

"Malgré nos réclamations réitérées, la Résolution du $\frac{5}{17}$ Octobre qui est une loi fondamentale pour le Gouvernement provisoire de cette province, n'a jamais été publié par la "Maritza," journal qui sert à toutes les communications officielles; ainsi, le Métropolitain Bulgare de Slivno pouvait croire que je représentais l'autorité du Sultan, et le Colonel Russe, Commandant de Yamboli, pouvait me désigner comme un Ministre Turc dans son billet par lequel il réquisitionnait la troupe.

"Au mois de Janvier, la Commission Européenne avait décidé de venir en aide aux cultivateurs qui avaient souffert par les événements de la guerre, et elle avait ordonné une enquête pour connaître les sommes jugées nécessaires par les communes. Je fis imprimer pour cette enquête des feuilles, que je remis à M. le Gouverneur-Général avec prière de les distribuer aux Conseils d'Arrondissement, qui devaient en faire parvenir un exemplaire à chaque commune.

"Cette manifestation des intentions bienveillantes de la Commission Européenne, aurait peut-être contribué à éclairer la population sur le but de l'Administration Financière et à rendre le peuple moins accessible aux accusations répandues par les agitateurs contre la Commisssion.

"Mais les Conseils d'Arrondissement n'ont jamais reçu les imprimés remis au Gouverneur-Général, ni l'ordre de procéder à l'enquête décrétée par la Commission Européenne.

"La province a des intérêts très-considérables à Achiolou et à Bourgas; dans la première ville à cause des marais salants, dans la seconde à cause de la douane du seul port maritime de la province. Malgré toutes mes démarches, je n'ai pas encore pu obtenir un rapport ou un compte-rendu quelconque de la douane de Bourgas.

"La visite de ces deux villes était un des principaux objets de ma tournée.

"A Slivno son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général a déclaré officiellement à M. de Coutouly, Rapporteur du Comité des Finances, qu'il était impossible que je continuasse mon voyage pour inspecter les services financiers dans les chefs-lieux du département de Slivno.

"Peut-être son Excellence me fera-t-elle bientôt la même déclaration pour mon séjour à Philippopoli.

"Dans ces circonstances, l'Administration des Finances sous l'autorité de la Commission Européenne me paraît une impossibilité absolue.

"Jusqu'à présent les démonstrations de la population Bulgare n'ont pas été dirigées contre ma personne, mais uniquement contre la Commission Européenne et ses fonctionnaires. Cela est constaté par les deux adresses qui m'ont été remises à Yamboli et à Slivno, et par l'aveu fait à Slivno par son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général lui-même.

"Pourtant dans sa lettre du $\frac{27 \text{ Février}}{11 \text{ Mars}}$, son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général a essayé de rejeter la responsabilité des désordres arrivés à Haskeui, Yamboli et Slivno, sur ma personne, en portant atteinte à l'honneur et à la considération du personnel de votre Administration. Ces accusations ont trouvé immédiatement un écho dans le No. 61 du journal "Maritza," publié le même jour.

"Ce mot d'ordre une fois donné, retentira nécessairement bientôt dans toute la province et portera une nouvelle atteinte au prestige de la Commission Européenne.

"Pour ces considérations, je me vois obligé de rendre à la Commission Européenne le mandat qu'elle m'a fait l'honneur de me confier, et je prie votre Excellence de bien vouloir annoncer à MM. les Commissaires ma démission comme Directeur-Général des Finances de la Roumélie Orientale.

"Je regrette qu'une partie de la population de ce pays, mal éclairée sur le caractère de mon mandat, et aveuglée par des passions politiques, se soit laissé entraîner à prendre une attitude qui rend impossible l'exécution de ce mandat.

"Mon but unique était de servir ce pays et de me rendre utile en organisant son

Administration Financière, laquelle, par suite des circonstances, souffre de beaucoup d'abus et d'un grand nombre de défauts qui ne sont un mystère pour personne.

"Je regrette profondément d'avoir été empêché d'atteindre mon but, d'accomplir ma tâche, et j'ose espérer que la Commission Européenne me disculpera.

"Je vous prie, M. le Président, d'exprimer encore une fois ma vive reconnissance à MM. les Commissaires qui m'ont honoré en me confiant le poste de Directeur-Général des Finances; je garderai précieusement le souvenir de toutes les marques de sympathie et de bienveillance dont j'ai été l'objet de leur part pendant l'exercice de mes fonctions.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) "SCHMIDT."

M. de Coutouly propose à la Commission de tenir Lundi prochain une séance extraordinaire exclusivement consacrée à l'examen de la situation faite à l'Administration Financière.

Il exprime ensuite l'avis que la Commission devrait faire une démarche auprès de M. Schmidt, pour prier celui-ci de rester à son poste jusqu'à l'entrée en fonctions de la nouvelle Administration.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff prie le Président de lui dire s'il a demandé à son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général des explications sur les accusations portées par ce dernier contre M. Schmidt dans sa lettre du 11 Mars.

Le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne estime que le moment est venu de tirer la situation au clair et de bien faire voir sur qui doit peser la responsabilité de l'insuccès de l'Administration Financière de la Commission Européenne.

Le Président répond qu'il n'a pas encore écrit au Gouverneur-Général.

M. de Kallay prend la parole en ces termes:—

"Je tiens à rendre hommage au tact, à l'intelligence, à l'énergie, à l'activité et enfin à la bravoure dont M. Schmidt nous a donné tant de preuves. Je regrette vivement la décision qu'il a prise et je pense, comme M. de Coutouly, que nous devons faire une démarche pour retenir notre Directeur-Général à son poste; car il est certain, d'une part, que, si nous n'avons pas réussi, M. Schmidt n'est aucunement responsable de notre insuccès, et d'autre part, il est évident que, si notre Directeur-Général nous quitte, comme le temps nous manque pour lui trouver un remplaçant, nous devrons renoncer à l'Administration Financière de la province, ce que nous n'avons pas le droit de faire.

"En conséquence je propose de demander à M. Schmidt de rester à son poste."

Le Baron de Ring est d'avis que la Commission devrait charger les membres du Comité des Finances de la démarche à faire auprès de M. Schmidt, dont il regretterait vivement la retraite.

M. Vernoni: "Je m'associe aux éloges décernés à M. Schmidt. Je regrette très-vivement qu'il se soit trouvé dans la nécessité de donner sa démission, à la suite des difficultés qui lui ont toujours été créées par les autorités subalternes Russes. Ces autorités, par leur conduite si contraire aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin, ont manqué à leur devoir."

Le Colonel Schepelew pense comme les préopinants qu'il est impossible de trouver un remplaçant à M. Schmidt et qu'il faut prier celui-ci de rester à son poste. Il rend justice aux qualités de M. Schmidt, mais il a été surpris par certains passages de sa lettre concernant l'attitude des autorités Russes: "Ces autorités," continue le Premier Commissaire de Russie, "ont fait ce qu'elles ont pu. Le désordre était grand; une Administration Civile a été improvisée, et il est certain que cette Administration n'a pas toujours agi avec une régularité parfaite. Mais pouvait-il en être autrement? Nous avons en outre souffert de nombreux malentendus que j'ai déplorés, mais il n'est pas juste d'accuser l'autorité civile de mauvais vouloir. Dans des circonstances extrêmement difficiles, qui rendaient l'exécution de l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin presque impossible, les autorités Russes ont fait de grands efforts pour faciliter notre tâche. Tout en motivant sa démission, M. Schmidt aurait pu se dispenser d'introduire dans sa lettre les appréciations que je viens de relever."

M. de Coutouly demande à la Commission si elle veut discuter la lettre qui vient d'être lue. Il pourrait, dans ce cas, prouver que les autorités Russes n'ont pas prêté à M. Schmidt tout le concours que l'on avait le droit d'attendre d'elles, mais il est d'avis, tout en se déclarant prêt à répondre séance tenante au Colonel Schepelew, qu'il vaut mieux remettre cette discussion à une séance spéciale.

"En sa qualité de Rapporteur du Comité des Finances, il tient à s'associer aux éloges si justes qui ont été faits de l'attitude et des qualités vraiment exception-

nelles de M. Schmidt, qualités que le Comité a été encore plus à même d'apprécier que les autres membres de la Commission Européenne. La droiture de M. Schmidt, son zèle infatigable pour la mission si laborieuse et si ingrate qui lui a été confiée, son profond sentiment du devoir, sa décision et son grand courage lui ont valu l'estime et l'admiration de ses collaborateurs."

Lord Donoughmore déclare qu'il pense absolument comme M. de Coutouly. Il regrette très-vivement que M. Schmidt se soit trouvé dans la nécessité de donner sa démission.

Abro Effendi dit que son Excellence Assim Pacha et lui partagent les regrets unanimes de la Commission. La retraite de M. Schmidt, dont les Commissaires de Turquie apprécient les hautes qualités, l'intelligence et le tact prouve l'exécution de l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin a été empêchée par la mauvaise volonté de ceux dont la Commission était en droit d'attendre le concours.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff tient à constater qu'à différentes reprises il a signalé à la Commission les difficultés créées par le Prince Dondoukoff. Ce n'est donc pas, comme l'a dit M. Vernoni, aux seules autorités subalternes Russes que l'on doit reprocher l'inexécution de l'Article XIX.

M. de Coutouly dit que la Commission ferait bien d'entendre M. Schmidt et de lui demander des explications sur certains passages de sa lettre, qui ont besoin d'être développés.

Il renouvelle sa proposition de tenir le 26 Mars une séance consacrée à l'examen de la situation faite à l'Administration Financière.

Le Président met aux voix la proposition de M. le Rapporteur du Comité des Finances.

La Commission décide qu'elle examinera dans sa prochaine séance la situation faite à l'Administration Financière.

Le Président renouvelle la proposition qu'il a faite de charger le Comité des Finances de prier M. Schmidt de rester provisoirement à son poste.

La Commission adopte.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff croit qu'il est absolument indispensable d'établir dans la prochaine séance que la responsabilité de la non-exécution de l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin ne doit retomber ni sur la Commission, ni sur M. Schmidt, mais sur les autorités Russes. Il est d'avis qu'il faut soumettre aux Gouvernements un exposé complet de la situation telle qu'elle est.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée au 26 Mars:

1. Le Chapitre VIII: "Agriculture, Commerce, et Travaux Publics;"
2. L'examen de la situation faite à l'Administration Financière de la Commission Européenne;
3. La continuation du débat sur les Chapitres XII et XIII: "Milice Locale et Gendarmerie."

La séance est levée à 6 heures et demie.

(Signé) RING.
COUTOULY.
KALLAY.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
DONOUGHMORE.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.

Inclosure 3 in No. 704.

Protocole No. 60.—Séance du $\frac{24 \text{ Mars}}{5 \text{ Avril}}$, 1879 (14 *Rébi-ul-Akhir*, 1296), *au Lycée Impérial de Galata-Séraï.*

Présidence de M. le Baron de Ring.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring,
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures.

Le Protocole de la cinquante-neuvième séance, lu par M. Rozet, est adopté.

La Commission décide que pendant l'absence de M. Isvolsky, resté à Philippopoli, M. le Chevalier Curiel, Attaché à la Légation de Sa Majesté le Roi d'Italie à Constantinople, remplira provisoirement les fonctions de Secrétaire adjoint de la Commission.

M. de Kallay prend la parole en ces termes:—

"Messieurs, vous vous souvenez que, lors de notre première réunion à Canlidja, nous avions offert la présidence de la Commission à son Excellence Assim Pacha pour toutes les séances qui précéderaient notre départ pour Philippopoli. Il avait été arrêté en outre que si la Commission siégeait de nouveau à Constantinople, une nouvelle décision serait prise. Aujourd'hui que nous sommes de retour en cette ville, il me paraîtrait absolument juste que toutes nos séances fussent présidées par le Premier Commissaire de Turquie."

Le Prince Tzeretelew, sans s'élever absolument contre la proposition de M. de Kallay, rappelle à la Commission que, dans le texte même de la décision prise à la première séance, il n'a pas été question de modifier la règle de l'alternat présidentiel en cas de retour à Constantinople. Toutefois, pour donner satisfaction au désir de plusieurs de ses collègues, le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie est prêt à accepter un changement de tour dans la présidence alternative, en intervertissant l'ordre alphabétique. La réunion se conformerait ainsi au désir du Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie sans faire aucune innovation, puisque plusieurs fois déjà l'ordre alphabétique a été interverti pour des raisons de santé.

M. de Kallay dit qu'il avait été convenu entre les Commissaires qu'au retour à Constantinople la question de la présidence ferait l'objet d'une nouvelle décision. Il insiste pour que son Excellence Assim Pacha préside toutes les séances tenues à Constantinople, sans que la Commission s'occupe du tour régulier de présidence.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff partage l'avis de M. de Kallay et se rappelle qu'à la première séance la question de la présidence au retour à Constantinople est restée ouverte.

Le Prince Tzeretelew accepte l'idée de M. de Kallay, pour ne pas soulever de difficultés au sujet de questions secondaires, et, tout en maintenant le principe de l'alternat, il consent à ce que la présidence de son Excellence Assim Pacha dure tout le temps du séjour de la Commission à Constantinople.

M. de Kallay n'a aucune objection à faire à ce que l'alternat continue au retour à

Philippopoli, mais il soutient qu'à Constantinople le principe de l'alternat doit être suspendu.

Après cet échange d'idées, la Commission prie le Premier Commissaire de Turquie de présider ses séances pendant toute la durée du séjour à Constantinople.

Le Baron de Ring dépose ses pouvoirs entre les mains de son Excellence Assim Pacha.

Présidence de son Excellence Assim Pacha.

Le Premier Commissaire de France demande aux Délégués de Turquie s'ils ont quelques renseignements à communiquer à leurs collègues au sujet des dispositions du Statut Organique sur lesquelles ils n'ont point émis de vote.

Abro Effendi répond qu'à la prochaine séance il pourra faire connaître l'opinion de la Sublime Porte relativement aux trois premiers points. Mais la question des vacoufs étant grave et nécessitant un sérieux examen, les Commissaires Ottomans ne pourront vraisemblablement recevoir d'instructions à ce sujet avant dix jours.

M. Vernoni dit qu'il a vu, il y a trois jours, Alexandre Pacha Carathéodori, qui lui a fait espérer une prochaine réponse de la Sublime Porte relativement aux points réservés.

Le Prince Tzeretelew, en constatant que les quatre points restés ouverts empêchent seuls la Commission de passer à la seconde lecture du Statut Organique, fait remarquer que cette seconde lecture ne devant, selon toute apparence, être qu'un simple travail de rédaction, il ne peut s'empêcher de prier MM. les Commissaires Ottomans de se hâter le plus possible.

Leurs réserves empêchent seules l'achèvement de l'œuvre de la Commission, c'est sur eux seuls que retombe la responsabilité de ce retard.

Le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie prie la Commission de ne pas s'attarder à la rédaction en seconde lecture du Statut Organique. Pour sauvegarder des intérêts politiques majeurs, il faut éviter de perdre trop de temps à la correction grammaticale d'un texte, qui paraît dès aujourd'hui assez compréhensible.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff croit que la Commission est tombée dans une erreur légale en rédigeant l'Article 7 du Chapitre I, qui concerne l'élection des officiers inférieurs de la milice: "Suivant les dispositions du Traité de Berlin," dit-il, "tous les officiers de la milice et de la gendarmerie doivent être nommés par Sa Majesté le Sultan. Il serait opportun, suivant moi, de modifier la rédaction que nous avons adoptée et de prendre à cet effet l'avis d'un jurisconsulte."

M. de Kallay ne peut accepter la proposition de son collègue d'Angleterre, l'Article 7 du Chapitre I ayant été accepté à l'unanimité: "Nous avons établi," ajoute le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie, "que les nominations des officiers inférieurs seront faites par le Gouverneur-Général par délégation de Sa Majesté le Sultan. Cette décision ne porte aucune atteinte aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin; du reste dans plusieurs provinces de l'Empire la nomination des officiers inférieurs est faite de la sorte par le Vali."

Pour ce qui concerne la rédaction du Statut Organique, M. de Kallay s'associe au désir exprimé par le Prince Tzeretelew. Il voudrait qu'on remaniât un peu le style des Chapitres rédigés sans la collaboration des Commissaires de France et qu'on fît disparaître les fautes les plus saillantes sans rien changer au sens. Ce travail, à son avis, pourrait être complétement terminé en trois ou quatre jours, et, pour le faciliter, il lui semblerait utile d'en charger M. Amiable, Conseiller Légal de la Sublime Porte. Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie fait remarquer à ses collègues de Turquie que tant que les quatre points qui sont restés ouverts ne seront pas définitivement votés, on ne pourra ni établir le rang des Chapitres, ni numéroter les Articles.

Le Prince Tzeretelew rappelle à la Commission que, d'après le texte du Traité de Berlin, le Statut Organique devant être élaboré "d'accord avec la Porte Ottomane," les Commissaires de Russie ont fait à ce sujet dans la première séance, une déclaration à laquelle Abro Effendi a répondu en ces termes à la troisième séance:—

"D'après l'Article XVIII du Traité de Berlin, l'organisation administrative de la Roumélie Orientale doit être élaborée d'accord avec la Sublime Porte.

"Comme le Gouvernement Impérial est représenté dans la Commission par ses Délégués, l'accord s'établira au sein de la Commission elle-même.

"En conséquence, l'accord sera considéré comme établi avec la Sublime Porte sur

toutes les dispositions qui auront été adoptées par la Commission, avec l'assentiment des Délégués Ottomans."

"Je crois," ajoute le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie, "que ce que je viens de lire tranche complétement la question soulevée par Sir Henry Drummond Wolff en ce qui concerne un changement quelconque au sens d'un Article déjà voté. Mais il me paraîtrait préférable de ne pas modifier même la forme d'un Article adopté, ce qui pourrait nécessiter certains changements dans le reste du Statut, d'autant plus que nos Gouvernements ont exprimé le désir de voir terminer nos travaux le plus tôt possible."

M. Vernoni fait observer que M. Amiable n'ayant pas assisté aux séances de la Commission, et n'étant pas, pour cette raison, au courant de toutes les questions qui ont été agitées par l'Assemblée, ne pourra peut-être corriger seul la rédaction du Statut Organique, sans risquer d'altérer tant soit peu le sens. Le Délégué d'Italie propose, en conséquence d'adjoindre le jurisconsulte proposé par M. de Kallay à une Sous-Commission composée de deux Commissaires.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff déclare qu'en parlant de l'Article 7 du Chapitre I, alinéa 5, il n'a pas eu l'intention de faire revenir la Commission sur une décision déjà prise par elle. Il a proposé à ses collègues une simple modification de rédaction.

Après un court échange d'idées, la Commission décide qu'une Sous-Commission composée de M. le Baron de Ring et du Prince Tzeretelew est chargée, de concert avec M. Amiable, de procéder à la correction du texte du Statut Organique adopté en première lecture.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, fixe la prochaine séance au 9 Avril.

La séance est levée à 5 heures.

(Signé) RING.
COUTOULY.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
VERNONI.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) ROZET.
SELIM.
CURIEL.

No. 705.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 29.*)

(No. 166.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 14, 1879.*

M. VERNONI called upon me yesterday, in a state of great excitement, to tell me that Aleko Pasha was at Philippopolis, making acquaintance with the inhabitants. He had learnt this from Count de Montholon, the French Chargé d'Affaires, who had received the information by telegraph from the French Consul at Philippopolis.

M. Vernoni expressed his apprehensions that if Aleko Pasha, who is of Bulgarian origin, is thus taken up by the Russians, there is some chance of his being elected Prince by the northern Bulgarians.

Later, I met M. de Coutouly, with two of the French Secretaries, who confirmed the report. I telegraphed to Lord Donoughmore to inquire into the truth of the report, of which I, at the same time, informed your Lordship by telegraph.

On my return home from dining at the Embassy in the evening, I found that M. Rozet had called, and he had later sent the note, a copy of which I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship, together with a copy of the inclosure. The latter is a letter addressed to M. Schmidt, who has come to Constantinople for a few days, by M. Crespin, his Secretary.

I inclose a copy of my reply to M. Rozet.

The French are loud in their denunciation of Aleko Pasha, and lose no opportunity of discrediting him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 705.

M. Rozet to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

Cher Monsieur,

VOUS trouverez ci-joint un document que je suis venu vous communiquer de la part du Baron de Ring. Vous nous obligerez en me renvoyant cette pièce demain matin de bonne heure. Je regrette vivement de ne pas vous avoir rencontré chez vous : j'étais chargé de vous dire que nous considérons la candidature mentionnée dans la pièce ci-jointe comme une ténébreuse intrigue.

Votre, &c.
(Signé) A. ROZET.

Inclosure 2 in No. 705.

M. Crespin to M. Schmidt.

Cher M. Schmidt, *Philippopoli, le 12 Avril*, 1879.

LE Général Stolipine est retourné l'après-midi du lendemain de votre départ. Il était de très-bonne humeur, c'est le Préfet de Police qui m'a raconté cela.

Entre le cinquième et septième jour après le Dimanche des Paques, toutes les milices Bulgares devront se trouver à Philippopoli, ou le Général Stolipine les passera en revue. A ce sujet on a pris des mesures pour que tous les boulangers et tous les bouchers soient abondamment fournis, les premiers de farine, et les seconds de bétail.

Certes, que s'il doit y avoir quelque chose comme manifestation ou autre c'est ce jour-là que ça se fera. Avant-hier le Général Stolipine a assemblé chez lui les Notables Bulgares, et leur a dit que l'occupation mixte était un fait accompli, que les Turcs n'occuperaient pas les Balkans, et que le Gouverneur de la Roumélie Orientale serait irrévocablement un Européen ; que cela étant donné ils devraient se tenir calmes et tranquilles.

Ayant rencontré Lord Donoughmore dans la rue hier, je lui ai communiqué cette nouvelle ; il a dû la télégraphier à Sir Henry.

Le Colonel Vitalis a été nommé par le Général Stolipine Commandant dans la milice ; or, il doit commander son uniforme et faire d'autres faux-frais de ce genre ; mais il n'a pas le sou, et il vous prie de lui faire sur son traitement des fonds de l'Etat une avance de £ T. 60. Si vous y consentez, veuillez, je vous en prie, me le télégraphier.

Je me suis rendu vers les 3 heures de relevée chez le Général Stolipine.

Je lui ai dit que vous ne vous étiez absenté que pour quelques jours, et que vous aviez beaucoup regretté de ne l'avoir pu voir avant votre départ ; que s'il voulait cependant vous communiquer quelque chose, il pouvait se servir de mon entremise, &c., &c. Je l'ai prié de me dire si le Colonel Vitalis avait été nommé par lui au commandement de la milice ; il m'a dit que c'était parfaitement exact. Alors il m'a ajouté qu'il y nommerait aussi un officier supérieur Turque, pourqu'on ne pût le taxer d'impartialité.

Sur ces entrefaits est arrivé un officier supérieur de son Etat-Major, et j'ai cru devoir me retirer. Je l'ai trouvé excessivement gai ; or, ici je dois vous faire remarquer que depuis son retour tous ces messieurs—Grizenco, Nekludoff, le Préfet—ont un air de contentement, qui les avait quitté avant le départ du Général pour Tirnovo, et depuis que l'on avait commencé sérieusement de l'occupation mixte.

Hier, vers les 5 heures, nous avons reçu de Bourgas la dépêche suivante, en date du 30 Mars :

"Les employés de la douane et de la quarantaine de Vassilovo Agatopoli annoncent que les Turcs sont venus. Informez comment il faut agir avec eux.

"Le Chef de la Douane,
(Signé) "BAÏKOFF."

Nous lui avons immédiatement télégraphié de nous donner de plus amples renseignements sur le fait, parce que nous n'avons pu comprendre ce que pourraient être ces Turcs arrivant dans les voisinages de Bourgas. Je crois, pour mon compte, qu'il ne peut s'agir que de troupes Turques; et en ce cas le fait impliquerait un certain degré de sériosité; c'est-à-dire que l'occupation mixte n'aurait pas abouti, et que les troupes Turques aux termes du Traité de Berlin, commenceraient à faire leur mouvement pour aller occuper la ligne des Balkans, qui leur est tracée.

Hier soir je dînais au Luxembourg avec le Consul de France, M. Grizenco, et M. Isvolsky. Arrive tout à coup un soldat de la Chancellerie du Gouverneur-Général et lui dit, à Grizenco, que le Général Stolipine le demande à la hâte au konak. Un instant après succède à ce soldat un jeune officier de l'Etat-Major de Stolipine, et dit à Isvolsky deux mots à l'oreille. Ce dernier s'en montre ému, et il se lève aussitôt pour suivre l'officier, mais s'apercevant que ses mouvements ne pouvaient n'être pas aperçus par le Consul et moi, il se rassied et feint le calme et l'indifférence. L'officier a l'air très-pensif il se lève, sort de la pièce, puis il rentre, et presse Isvolsky de partir, et tous deux s'en vont.

Tout cela, ajouté à l'arrivée soudaine dans la ville, depuis hier, du Général Skobeleff et à la dépêche dont je vous donne ci-dessus la teneur, me fait supposer qu'il a dû se passer quelque chose de grave; le Consul de France est de mon avis.

Maintenant vous ne devez pas ignorer qu'un nommé Bougoridès, Prince de Samos, se trouve ici depuis avant-hier. Il est descendu chez les Gnéshoff. Son but, en arrivant dans cette ville, est celui de soutenir sa candidature au poste de Gouverneur de la province. Il ne parle ni le Grec, ni le Turc, ni le Bulgare; il serait cependant né en Grèce, mais toute son éducation a été faite en France; il est brun, et bel homme; il parle le Français dans un accent très-pur.

Il a les sympathies des Bulgares, et je crois qu'il jouit de celles des Russes aussi, suivant l'éloge que m'en a fait Grizenco, pas plus tard qu'aujourd'hui. Son père est né dans un village des environs de Philippopoli: j'en ai oublié le nom.

Je vous adresse ci-joint deux lettres avec leurs annexes, dont une du Gouverneur-Général et une du Gouverneur de Philippopoli. Elles traitent de deux sujets que vous désiréricz peut-être soumettre au Comité des Finances.

Quant à la première, je vous dirai que le Général Stolipine m'en a parlé hier. Il vous prierait beaucoup de faire payer aux fonctionnaires, ou plutôt aux membres du Conseil du Gouvernement de Slivno, dont il est question, leurs traitements, au plus vite possible, parce qu'ils en auraient besoin pour passer convenablement leurs fêtes des Pâques. C'est sur les instances du Gouverneur-Général, que Pavlitoff et moi nous sommes décidés de vous adresser une dépêche à ce sujet en date d'hier. A part les pièces dont je vous entretiens dans la présente, les autres qui nous sont arrivées depuis votre départ traitent de sujets très-peu pressants, et de peu d'importance; nous y répondons lorsque nous sommes sûrs d'agir selon votre volonté; dans le cas contraire nous les réservons pour votre retour.

Pavlitoff et moi nous nous rendons tous les jours très-régulièrement à la Direction de 11 heures à 4 heures. Le plus parfait accord existe entre nous et entre tous les autres employés.

Je suis constamment à la piste de nouvelles. Si je m'aperçois que des événements extraordinaires se préparent je ne faillirai pas de vous télégraphier conformément à votre désir. Affaires pressantes et difficiles nous ne pouvons pas les expédier sans votre présence.

En tout cas, cher M. Schmidt, pourquoi voudriez-vous être ici s'il arrivait quelque chose de désagréable? on pourrait vous faire du mal, et à quoi bon, puisque tout cela va être très-prochainement réglé, nonobstant ce que me disaient hier à l'hôtel Hübsch et Grizenco. Nous ne croyons pas que nous partirons le 13 Mai.

"En tout cas il me faudra, pour mon compte," ajoute Hübsch, "au moins un mois après le terme de l'évacuation pour régler les affaires de ma Chancellerie."

Alors je leur ai dit qu'après le terme de leur occupation la Caisse aurait le droit de suspendre ou d'arrêter leurs traitements; ça les a mis de mauvais humeur, et ils se sont mis à étudier le sujet sérieusement.

Dans l'attente de vos ordres, &c.

Dans l'attente, &c.
(Signé) GUIDE CRESPIN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 705.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to M. Rozet.

Mon cher Collègue, *Miosirie's, le 14 Avril*, 1879.

MERCI mille fois de votre billet, et du document inclus.

M. Schmidt a envoyé son domestique le réclamer.

Je n'ai rien reçu de Lord Donoughmore sur l'arrivée à Philippopoli de M. Vogorides. Mes seuls renseignements à ce sujet viennent de M. Vernoni. Ceux-ci sont fondés je crois sur une dépêche reçue par M. de Montholon.

Les intrigues fourmillent en si grand nombre, tant claires que ténébreuses, qu'une de plus, une de moins, ne changera pas beaucoup à l'ordre des choses.

(Signé) H. D. WOLFF.

No. 706.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 29.)

(No. 167.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 18*, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a Report by Mr. Walpole of his journey into Macedonia, undertaken with the object of repatriating some Protestant Bulgarian refugees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 706.

Report by Mr. Walpole.

March 10.—TAKING the train in the afternoon from Philippopolis, I reached Bazardjik the same evening with M. Toujouroff, a Protestant Bulgarian preacher, and a native of Samakow, whose district was in Raslog, in Macedonia. My object was to proceed to Bansko to see the Turkish authorities, and prevail on them to allow the Protestants of the district to return. I had a letter addressed to the Russian authorities in Eastern Roumelia, and also a letter from Assim Pasha, the first Turkish Commissioner, to the Mudir of Bansko, of whom I had heard a very good report.

The town of Bazardjik, which is occupied by Russian troops, presented a very warlike appearance, the streets being crowded with armed men, both Russian soldiers and Bulgarians, some dressed in uniform and others not.

At once, on my arrival, I proceeded to the house of a Bulgarian named Beniff, the Natchalnik, and hearing he was not at home, left General Stolipine's letter there, saying I would call again in an hour and a-half. Upon my calling later, after being kept waiting in a dark room for over half an hour, I was shown into the Natchalnik, who said he could nothing for me, and had no power to give me a guard of soldiers. I at once called on the General Laskzaroff, commanding the 9th Brigade, who tried hard to persuade me not to think of trying to reach Bansko, but at length consented to give me some troopers, under the charge of a sergeant. While at dinner the same evening several of the principal Bulgarians came, and sitting opposite to where I was, loudly expressed their disapprobation of England, her Government, and the Commission. I pretended not to hear, and stayed in the room as short a time as possible. At daybreak the next morning (11th March) eight troopers with a sergeant arrived, and also an Aide-de-camp of the General, who spoke French. He said he had been sent to wish me a pleasant journey, and also to say my guard would be changed every day till I reached Bansko.

The country round Tatar-Bazardjik is very fertile and well cultivated.

Belova was reached in the afternoon. By taking this route a day was lost, but the General seemed determined that I should not go by Larembé, which is much shorter, probably because there was some movement amongst the troops. At Belova the people came and scowled at me in a very threatening manner, and wanted to know what I wanted. I answered I was passing through to administer relief to some

Bulgarians. They evidently disbelieved me, and though the drill for the day was over, had the armed men out and paraded in front of my window, and shouting. I was forced to stay here a night, owing to the slow pace at which the Bulgarians under my care, who were on foot, travelled. In the evening several of the principal Bulgarians sent to say they were going to call on me, as they knew I came from the Commission. I at once sent word that I had come on no political errand, but that if they cared to come in a friendly way and talk, I should be glad to see them. Three of them arrived soon after. They appeared to be intelligent men. They began at once by saying that in all the villages the people were armed and regularly drilled. I said I knew, and was sorry for it, as I could not imagine why, unless some fighting was expected, they should suddenly take so much interest in military matters. They answered that a resistance against the return of the Turks was intended; that though not personally averse to the Turks, they could never return to the old days of Turkish misrule, and that although they knew they could not prevail against the will of Europe and the strength of Turkish armies, they were determined to resist. I asked them if they had read the Treaty of Berlin; they said it had been explained to them by their friends. I asked which parts were objectionable to them; they answered, partly the appointment of a Governor-General by the Sultan, who, they said, would soon bring back the old state of things, and call in the troops to enforce them; also the appointment of officers by the Sultan, and thirdly, the garrisons in the Balkan passes, which would make raids on their villages, murdering the inhabitants and plundering. In answer to the first question, I told them they had been wilfully misinformed. A Christian Governor was to be appointed by the Sultan, with the sanction of the Powers, and care would be taken a suitable man was chosen. The officers, also, would be many of them foreigners, well up to their duty, and men averse to injustice of any sort. I explained the system of the gendarmerie, and that the idea of their being governed by Turks was absurd, as the people virtually governed themselves. They said promises had been made before to them. I told them promises made by the Turks had been made and broken, but now the Powers of Europe were determined to prevent bloodshed, and guaranteed that these promises should be kept. In answer to their question about the Turkish Balkan garrisons, I told them the greatest statesmen agreed that it was necessary, but that they would be limited, and any case of violence would be punished by their own Courts, and that the offenders would not be sent to Constantinople to be judged. Also that regular troops in the mountains would be a protection from those bad characters who make their asylum in all large mountain ranges in every country.

This question of the Balkan garrisons seemed to be their chief grievance, as they seemed to think that they would be isolated from their friends and relations in Bulgaria.

Before they went I begged them not to condemn the Commission without a trial; that at great trouble it had been formed for their good; and that, though they seemed to think England was their enemy, it was only because she had been traduced by their false friends. That all the laws and institutions of England showed her people to be the most humane. I reminded them of much that had been done for them during the war; also that the cause of the Bulgarians was warmly espoused by many influential people in England. I said that the laws made for Eastern Roumelia were based on the best in Europe, and that they would certainly be carried out impartially. I also reminded them of the miseries of the past, and tried to show them how foolish it was to cause a revival of them. They were very civil and listened most attentively, and I could plainly see by the altered manner of the people to me after that they seemed to think that there might be some truth in the desire of the Commission to do good.

March 12.—Left Belova at daylight, *en route* for Ramenitza, the Russian advanced outpost. We passed through a very mountainous country, covered with huge forests of fine timber trees and firs. Baron Hirsch rents much of this from the Government, and, according to all accounts, makes a large income. The men principally employed for wood-cutting are Germans. This work was very busily progressing as I passed. Although the wilful destruction of timber is enormous—many thousands of trees lying rotting on the ground—the supply seems inexhaustible. Towards the evening I arrived at Ramenitza. Here no drilling was going on amongst the Bulgarians, though about seventy Russian soldiers are posted here. This village lies in a plain called the Forked Plain, which contains seven villages, six of them being Turkish. I tried in vain to get a Turkish guard to go on with, but no Turk had either a horse or any sort of weapon.

March 13.—Finding the country was in a very disordered state between Ramenitza and Yakoruda, the first Turkish village of any importance, I decided to continue my journey with the Russian guard. Almost the whole day I rode along a narrow valley with high mountains on each side, most of them covered with trees. Many Turks live in these mountains, having little clearings amongst the trees. They seldom descend, but periodically send the women to buy the very few necessaries they require. On approaching Yakoruda, the whole town came to meet us, led by the leading men. Their object in coming was partly to do honour to any one coming, as they thought, from the Commission, and partly from curiosity to see Russian soldiers, of whom they had heard so much. I was most hospitably entertained. The inhabitants of this town consist of Pomaks and Bulgarians, the Pomaks being in the majority. The Russian soldiers, at my desire, were taken to the khan. The Mussulmans complained to me that all trade was stopped, as Bulgarians laid in wait for them outside the town to kill them. While, on the other side, the Bulgarians complain that their flocks have been taken by the Turks. I had no opportunity of verifying either statement.

Hearing that the Bulgarians were preparing for a demonstration in favour of the Russian soldiers, I at once went and saw the leading Bulgarians, and pointed out to them in what a false position it would place me, and that most likely it would end in a popular tumult. They promised me that nothing of the kind should take place. They therefore contented themselves with feasting the soldiers, and, I think, easily succeeded in making them all drunk.

March 14.—Having seen the soldiers safely out of the town on their way back the next morning, I started to Noumen, a village about three miles from Bansko, escorted by some Turkish zaptiehs. The Turks at Yakoruda had sent on to say I was coming, and three miles from the village I found six mounted soldiers waiting to escort me into the village. On my arrival I found all the troops (about 600) drawn up in review order, who presented arms as I passed, the officers saluting. I went to a house which had been prepared for me, and the Mudir soon arrived, to whom I delivered the letter from Assim Pasha. He informed me that Ahmed Pasha, the Commandant of the troops, would arrive shortly, and as he was in charge of the district, I must apply to him.

On the arriving of the Pasha I called on him, and stated the purpose for which I had been sent. He said he would call on me the next morning, when I should be alone, as M. Toujouroff was going to call on his Bulgarian friends, and we could talk the matter over. He accordingly visited me at 9 o'clock on the 16th. I told him the reason of my visit. At first he seemed very unwilling to let Protestants return to the village in any numbers; the reasons he gave being the unsettled state of the Bulgarians in the country; also that they would try and convert the Turks. He said the soldiers occupied the vacant houses, and he could not then know where to lodge them. He also gave many other reasons with no real foundation. I explained to him that the Bulgarian Protestants were very peaceable, and besides, that they had promised me never to take up arms against the Turks, but, if compelled to fight, would rather side with them. The work of conversion would also only be carried on amongst the Bulgarians, and not amongst the Turks. This also had been promised to me by M. Toujouroff. I told him that M. Toujouroff had been for many years in England, and many people there had taken an interest in his work, and, of course, he would tell them if any ill-treatment or harsh measures were used against his people. He had also married an English wife. He was at present in charge of over 4,000 Turkish refugees in Philippopolis. He then said he would let them come back, as his orders were not to stop any refugees who wished to return. I said I not only wanted leave for them to return, but also protection for them, both against the Bulgarians of the Greek Church and his own soldiers, who, I heard, had violated and robbed several of the inhabitants; and, moreover, that they might be free to carry out their religious customs, such as not working on Sundays, &c. He again demurred, but after some hesitation he consented to do all I asked. I distinctly asked him if I might write home to say he was going to carry out my wishes, and he said I might. Since my return, I hear that he has cleared the soldiers out of the houses of the Protestants who have returned. Before going the Pasha expressed his astonishment that I, who he knew had been with Suleiman Pasha during the war, should take any trouble about Bulgarians.

The next day, the 17th, I rode to Bansko, and put up at the Pasha's house there. Several of the Protestant Bulgarians visited me, and some brought presents of food, &c. I had conversations with several of them. One, who spoke French, had been made a prisoner by the insurgents, and only got off by paying a ransom of £ T. 250. They all told me the same story; the brigands lodged in some khans about

four hours from Bansko, on the road to Djoumaïa, which is occupied by the Russians. They stop any one that tries to pass, and rob him, no sum being too insignificant to take. If a man is rich they make him prisoner till he is ransomed. After having collected some money they go to Djoumaïa and spend it, freely mixing amongst the Russian soldiers. These insurgents had made a raid not long before into Bansko, plundering the houses and murdering the inhabitants. They are held in great dread by the Bansko people, who say they will all be murdered when the Turkish soldiers leave. As Bansko is a large town, I asked them if they had tried to make any arrangement to protect themselves by appealing to the authorities for a guard of soldiers, or asking for arms. They said they had not thought of that. Upon my questioning them as to the behaviour of the Turkish troops quartered in their town, they said two young women who had gone into the fields to work had been violated, and several cases of petty thieving had taken place. I advised them not to send girls into the fields, but to send the young men. I told the leading Bulgarians what I had asked the Pasha, and that he promised me to keep order and protect them from ill-treatment.

Like true Bulgarians, having got one thing, they wished for another, and begged me to go to the Pasha and request him to allow the Bulgarians to keep pigs in all the Turkish villages where they lived. I told them I should not think of doing such a thing, and at the same time I took the opportunity of pointing out to them the utter want of tact shown by those Bulgarians in the villages in which Turks reside, and where they are allowed to keep pigs, in letting their pigs stray about in the streets, and enter the courtyards of the Turkish houses. Also in ringing their church bells when the muezzin is being called from the mosques, which often leads to the suppression of the bells, and consequent discontent of the Bulgarians.

Having received a letter from Sir Henry Drummond Wolff saying it was not safe to return to Philippopolis the same way as I came, I walked over to Nouinen, and asked the Pasha to give me a guard of soldiers to break through the rebels, and to get back viâ Djoumaïa. This he said was impossible, as that part of the country, against his will, was under Russian authority, but that he had sent a Bulgarian notable to Sofia to request Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff to give orders to the Russian Commandant to withdraw. I then returned to Bansko, and the next morning, the 20th, having got a guard from the military Kaïmakam at Bansko, an old friend of mine at Shipka, I started *en route* for Kavalla, hoping to find a steamer there for Dédéagatch, from whence I could take the train to Philippopolis. Riding through Dobronitza, I skirted the foot of enormously high mountains covered with snow. From these mountains avalanches periodically descend, some of which carry away whole forests with them into the valleys. There is general rejoicing among the villagers when this happens, as it keeps them supplied with wood, and saves them the trouble of ascending the mountains to obtain it. The same evening I arrived at the village of Fillibo, where I spent the night. It is a very pretty little village, inhabited by an almost equal number of Mussulmans and Bulgarians. The night of the 21st was spent at Nowrocop, which is a very pretty town. The Mussulmans are in the majority. I was astonished at the small number of Greeks I saw.

In passing through two villages I asked the nationality of the inhabitants, and was told Greek, although no one could speak a word of anything but Bulgarian. I asked the reason of this, and was told that by the influence of the Greek Church these people had been forced to change their nationality. The next day, the 22nd, we arrived at Lissa, and on the 23rd at Drama, which town is inhabited principally by Macedonians and Greeks.

On the 24th we arrived at Kavalla, after passing through the ruins of Philippi, the ancient capital of Macedonia. It is now a large town in ruins, utterly deserted; the remains of the palace, the wall, and most of the houses, are plainly to be distinguished. It seems to have been but little excavated. Cellars are to be seen; some have fallen in through age, but many are covered with grass and entirely untouched. This town is protected by a large castle on the crest of a hill overlooking it. The valley in which Philippi is situated, is called by the Turks the Valley of Pentrousness (?) Kavalla is a large town built on a hill jutting into the sea, reminding me of Cadiz. It is protected by an enormous castle crowning the top. The inhabitants are Turks and Greeks. Finding the steamer had left, the only thing to be done was to continue our journey to Dédéagatch by the road leading through Gumurdjina. The morning of the 25th we left Kavalla, and remained that night at Kara-suyenishe, and arrived at Gumurdjina on the evening of the 26th. On the 27th, being Sunday, we remained that day, and I went to visit the refugees. There had been

great mortality among them since I was there in December; many thousands must have died. In one house that I had taken particular interest in during my last visit, and in which there had been sixteen persons, eight of them children, only two men and one child were left, all the rest having died.

The misery is something terrible. The Turkish Government irregularly feeds those under fifteen and over sixty. Some relief has been sent from England, but very little according to all accounts. On the evening of the 28th I reached Dédéagatch, and the next day started for Adrianople. I saw Colonel Blunt here, who was organizing a system of gendarmerie. He said no murders had been committed by any one except Bulgarians, who in several cases had robbed and murdered their own countrymen, and then fled for protection into Eastern Roumelia.

On my way from Adrianople to Philippopolis the next day I had an opportunity of seeing an enormous number of Christians who, taking the advice of the Russians, are flying the country. The whole of the population of Mustapha-Pasha, with the exception of 40 families out of over 1,000, had left. I asked them what they expected to do. They answered the Russians had told them to go to Bourgas, where ships would be provided to take them to Russia, where they would be given land. I asked them whether they had well considered the step they were taking, and if they remembered the last time the Russians had sent as many of them to Russia. They answered that they could not do anything better than follow their friends.

While passing through the many villages on the road from Bansko to Kavalla, I asked my questions as to whether they were oppressed by the Turks. Their great cause of complaint, which might easily be remedied, is the conduct of the zaptiehs, who come to a village, live on the best of everything, and never pay, often, too, robbing the poor people of their hard-earned savings. These men attend the Agas when they travel. These Agas go to the Turkish houses and require food, &c. Naturally the Turks, being in the majority, and knowing that they will not be paid for what they supply, rob the Bulgarians of their fowls, &c. This breeds evil blood between the two races, and they mutually retaliate. If this was remedied, I feel certain it would cause half the sad tales one hears to cease.

(Signed) ROBERT H. WALPOLE.

Philippopolis, March 28, 1879.

No. 707.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29.)

(No. 169.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 18, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from the Earl of Donoughmore at Philippopolis, referring to the emigration of Turks from Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

P.S.—I also send a recorder of a telegram addressed by Lord Donoughmore to your Lordship.

H. D. W.

Inclosure 1 in No. 707.

The Earl of Donoughmore to the Marquis of Salisbury.

Philippopolis, April 9, 1879.

A LARGE number of Turkish inhabitants from districts Yeni-Zagbra and Yamboli have gone to Adrianople. Others are on the way thither from Haskoi and Hermanli. In neighbourhood of Tatar-Bazardjik and Philippopolis Turks have been ill-used, and are coming to the towns. Governor of Adrianople has applied to the Russian authorities that intending emigration may receive facilities.

There seems to be a general movement of Turkish element from the province

occasioned by violence of Bulgarians, which has not been great for some time, but has now burst out afresh.

(Sent to Commissioner.)

(Signed) DONOUGHMORE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 707.

The Earl of Donoughmore to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

Dear Sir H. Wolff, *Philippopolis, April* 12, 1879.

WITH reference to my letter on the subject of the emigration of Turkish inhabitants from the province, I learn that large numbers have come into the town in addition to those whom I have already mentioned.

These latter are principally from the district of Karadjadagh, about seven hours' distance from here.

All these people are in such terror of the consequences that they do not dare to bring forward their complaint.

Some days ago some of them stated their intention of asking my interference in their favour, but they have now renounced the idea; no doubt they have been deterred from doing so by threats.

I have taken no steps in the matter; nor shall I do so, unless I am applied to, or receive your instructions to the effect that I should do so without an application.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DONOUGHMORE.

No. 708.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29.)

(No. 170. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 18, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 166 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have learnt from Lord Donoughmore and other sources that it was not Aleko Pasha, but M. Emanuel Vogorides, his nephew, whose stay at Philippopolis alarmed the French Commissioners.

Lord Donoughmore informs me that some Greek notables of Philippopolis have been requested to sign a petition in favour of M. de Coutouly's appointment as Governor-General.

I am also told that the Greek Archbishop applied to the Fanar on the subject, and was advised by the Patriarch not to mix himself up in the movement.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 709.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29.)

(No. 171.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 18, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of Chapters XII and XIII, relating to the militia and gendarmerie, as adopted by the Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 709.

CHAPITRE XII.—MILICE LOCALE.

(Adopté en Première Lecture.)

I.—*Bases de l'Institution.*

ARTICLE 1er. La milice est une force militaire indigène, territoriale et sédentaire; elle réside ordinairement dans ses foyers et ne peut être mobilisée, en totalité ou en partie, que par le Gouverneur-Général agissant en vertu de la délégation permanente de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Art. 2. La milice est appelée, en temps de paix, à appuyer éventuellement l'action de la gendarmerie pour le maintien de l'ordre public à l'intérieur.

En qualité de force militaire Ottomane, elle doit, en cas d'invasion de la province ou d'opérations de guerre sur ses frontières, seconder d'action défensive de l'armée Impériale.

Elle pourra de même, sur la demande de la Sublime Porte, renforcer, dans les limites des possessions Européennes de l'Empire, l'armée de Sa Majesté le Sultan lorsqu'une loi de l'Empire, rendue en exécution des promesses déjà faites par le Gouvernement Impérial, aura effectivement donné à tous les sujets de l'Empire un droit égal aux fonctions, honneurs, et devoirs militaires.

Dans l'un et l'autre cas, elle constitue un corps auxiliaire sous le commandement de ses chefs directs, qui demeurent chargés de diriger son fonctionnement intérieur. Les charges financières résultant de la mise sur le pied de guerre de la milice incombent au Trésor de l'Empire.

Art. 3. Tout habitant indigène de la province est astreint au service militaire personnel dans la milice et dans sa réserve.

Art. 4. Les remplacements ne sont point autorisés.

Art. 5. L'exemption définitive du service n'est accordée que pour cause d'incapacité physique.

Les dispenses prévues au Titre II ne sont pas définitives.

Art. 6. Ne sont pas admis à servir dans la milice les hommes antérieurement condamnés à une peine afflictive ou infamante.

Art. 7. Nul ne peut servir dans la milice s'il n'est indigène de la province ou si son admission n'a été spécialement autorisée par une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général rendue dans la forme d'un règlement d'administration publique.

II.—*Recrutement.*

Art. 8. Le territoire de la province est divisé en douze districts de recrutement correspondant, deux par deux, à chacun des six départements administratifs.

Un officier supérieur ou capitaine remplit les fonctions de Commandant Militaire du district. Il est assisté, pour la tenu des contrôles du recrutement, par un sergent-major de district.

Art. 9. Aussitôt après la promulgation du présent Statut, on établira, dans chaque commune, un Registre-Matricule contenant les noms de tous les habitants mâles domiciliés dans la commune, depuis les nouveaux-nés jusqu'aux hommes âgés de 32 ans révolus.

Art. 10. Sont considérés comme légalement domiciliés dans la commune:—

1. Les hommes nés et établis dans la commune;

2. Les hommes établis dans la commune qui ne pourraient prouver leur inscription dans aucune autre commune;

3. Les absents dont le père, la mère, ou le tuteur sont établis dans la commune, à moins qu'ils ne prouvent leur établissement dans une autre commune de la province.

Art. 11. Le Registre-Matricule sera établi, dans chaque commune, par les soins d'une Commission composée des Maires et adjoints et du Chef religieux de chacune des communautés. Le plus ancien Maire est Président de droit de la Commission; il est personnellement responsable de l'exactitude des indications portées sur le Registre-Matricule.

Art. 12. Le Registre-Matricule sera tenu à jour par l'inscription de toutes les naissances d'enfants mâles et par celles des hommes qui pourront, par la suite, faire élection de domicile dans la commune.

Art. 13. Il est formé, pour chaque canton, un Conseil Permanent de recrutement composé: du Bailli ou du Secrétaire-Général de la Préfecture pour les cantons des

chefs-lieux de département, d'un membre du Conseil Général appartenant au canton, désigné par le sort, du Juge de Canton résidant au chef-lieu du canton, et d'un représentant laïque ou ecclésiastique élu par chacune des communautés religieuses représentées dans le canton; un employé du bailliage remplit, près du Conseil, les fonctions de Secrétaire.

Ce Conseil décide, sans frais, sur toutes les réclamations relatives à l'établissement des Registres-Matricules. Il ne peut être fait appel de ses décisions que devant la Commission Départementale.

Art. 14. Les Maires sont tenus d'adresser au Bailli de leur canton respectif, dans les trois mois qui suivront la promulgation du présent Statut, un relevé détaillé du Registre-Matricule de leur commune. Il sera dressé, à l'aide de ses relevés, un Registre-Matricule cantonal.

Les modifications résultant des décès, des naissances, et des changements de domicile sont, de même, notifiés chaque année au Bailli par les soins et sous la responsabilité des Maires; ces relevés sont arrêtés à la date du 31 Décembre et doivent être transmis, dans le courant du mois de Janvier, aux Baillis, qui font rectifier et compléter en conséquence les indications portées au Registre-Matricule cantonal.

Art. 15. Un Tableau spécial établi d'après les indications du registre cantonal et donnant les noms des jeunes gens qui ont accompli leur vingtième année au 1er Janvier de l'année courante est dressé, par les soins des Baillis, dans le courant du mois de Février.

Des relevés particuliers de cette liste de recensement cantonale, établis par commune, sont adressés aux Maires qui leur donnent la plus grande publicité possible. Les réclamations contre ces inscriptions doivent être présentés dans un délai de quinze jours après l'affichage des listes.

Les listes communales sont ensuite renvoyées aux Baillis avec les dossiers des réclamants. Les Baillis en saisissent les Conseils de Recrutement qui statuent et arrêtent définitivement la liste de recensement cantonale. Ces inscriptions devront toujours comprendre également le nom du père de l'homme inscrit.

Art. 16. Les opérations du tirage au sort ont lieu au chef-lieu du canton ou dans certaines localités désignées par le Conseil de Recrutement cantonal. Ces dispositions sont annoncées par voie d'affiches.

Le Conseil se transporte au jour fixé dans le lieu désigné; il est assisté du Commandant Militaire du district de milice ou d'un officier désigné par lui, et du Sergent-Major de district chargé de la tenue des contrôles.

Les Maires des communes doivent toujours être présents aux opérations du tirage au sort et à celles de la revision. Un médecin désigné par le Préfet assiste le Conseil pour procéder à l'examen médical des conscrits.

Art. 17. Pour l'opération du tirage au sort, il est établi autant de bulletins qu'il y a de noms inscrits sur la liste de recensement.

Ces bulletins, numérotés suivant une progression arithmétique en partant du chiffre 1, sont parafés par tous les Membres du Conseil et déposés dans l'urne en présence des jeunes gens inscrits ou de leurs représentants.

Les hommes sont appelés par ordre alphabétique pour retirer leur bulletin de l'urne. S'ils ne répondent pas à l'appel ou si personne ne se présente en leur nom, le numéro est tiré par le Maire de leur commune ou section de commune. Le Président du Conseil en fait la lecture à haute voix et le numéro est inscrit immédiatement sur la liste du tirage, à côté des nom et prénoms du possesseur du numéro.

Le tirage achevé, l'opération est considérée comme définitive et ne peut être recommencée. La liste du tirage ainsi établie est lue à haute voix et signée par tous les Maires et par tous les membres du Conseil.

Art. 18. Les opérations de la révision suivent immédiatement, s'il est possible, celles du tirage au sort.

L'officier de santé donne son avis sur chacun des jeunes gens appelés successivement devant le Conseil; le Conseil, après avoir pris l'avis du médecin, décide à la majorité des voix sur leur aptitude au service. S'il y a partage des voix, l'opinion émise par le médecin devient prépondérante.

Art. 19. Les jeunes gens qui, par suite de quelque infirmité physique, sont déclarés incapables de faire, dans la milice, un service actif ou auxiliaire, sont exemptés du service militaire.

Le Conseil peut ajourner à l'année suivante les jeunes gens qui sont seulement d'une complexion délicate susceptible d'amélioration. Ces ajournements peuvent être prononcés pendant trois années consécutives.

Art. 20. La dispense de service militaire est accordée en temps de paix :—

1. A l'aîné d'orphelins de père et de mère;

2. Au fils unique, à l'aîné des fils, ou, à défaut de fils et de gendre, à l'aîné des petits-fils d'une femme veuve, d'une femme dont le mari est légalement déclaré absent, d'un père aveugle ou infirme, ou d'un père septuagénaire. Si le frère aîné, dans l'un des cas prévus ci-dessus, se trouvait être lui-même aveugle ou infirme, la dispense s'étendrait également au frère puîné;

3. A quiconque a un frère engagé sous les drapeaux à titre permanent;

4. Au frère d'un soldat mort ou retraité par suite d'infirmités ou blessures contractées dans un service commandé.

La dispense prévue aux §§ 3 et 4 n'est applicable qu'à un fils par famille, mais elle est renouvelable autant de fois que le droit à la dispense vient à se reproduire.

Toutes ses dispenses sont applicables, même après l'incorporation, pour quiconque viendrait ultérieurement à se trouver placé dans des conditions de famille telles qu'il eût eu droit à la dispense lors de sa comparution devant le Conseil de Recrutement.

Art 21. Les membres du clergé des différentes cultes reconnus dans la province;

Les élèves des séminaires et des écoles Musulmanes ("Médressés") ayant déjà commencé leurs études théologiques;

Les instituteurs et les élèves des écoles d'instituteurs, à la condition de se vouer à l'enseignement pendant une période de douze années, sont dispensés provisoirement du service dans la milice.

Si les uns ou les autres renoncent volontairement à leur profession, ils retombent aussitôt sous le coup de la loi et sont inscrits sur la liste de recensement de l'année courante.

Art. 22. Sont également dispensés du service militaire, pendant la durée de leur fonction ou de leur emploi :—

(*a.*) Les Directeurs, membres du Conseil Privé, les membres de l'Assemblée Provinciale, et les fonctionnaires attachés à l'Assemblée;

(*b.*) Les fonctionnaires et employés de l'Administration des Postes et des Télégraphes;

(*c.*) Les Directeurs et infirmiers attachés aux hôpitaux civils, les Directeurs et gardiens des prisons, les agents de la police rurale, les douaniers et gardes forestiers;

(*d.*) Les employés des lignes de chemins de fer.

Art. 23. Les médecins ou élèves en médecine et les vétérinaires ne peuvent être employés dans la milice qu'au titre de leur spécialité. Leur hiérarchie spéciale est indiquée au Règlement Provisoire ci-annexé.

Art. 24. Il peut être accordé des "sursis d'appel," dont la durée ne saurait toutefois excéder quatre ans, aux jeunes gens qui font, à l'étranger, leurs études universitaires.

Ces sursis ne dispensent pas les jeunes gens qui les ont obtenus de faire, à leur retour, le nombre intégral d'années de service exigé des hommes de leur classe.

Art. 25. Toutes les dispenses peuvent être annulées en temps de guerre par Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général rendue dans la forme d'un règlement d'administration publique.

Art. 26. Lorsque le Conseil de Recrutement a terminé ses délibérations sur les exemptions, ajournements, dispenses, et exclusions, la liste du recrutement cantonale est arrêtée et signée par tous les membres du Conseil et déclarée définitive. Cette liste est divisée en cinq parties, comprenant, dans l'ordre des numéros de tirage :—

1. Ceux qui ont été déclarés aptes au service et qui n'appartiennent à aucune des catégories ci-après désignées;

2. Les hommes dispensés par application de l'Article 20 ci-dessus;

3. Les hommes dispensés en vertu des Articles 21 et 22;

4. Les hommes ajournés;

5. Les hommes classés, pour défaut de taille ou faiblesse de constitution, dans les services auxiliaires de la milice.

Art. 27. Après la clôture définitive de la liste de recrutement cantonale, le Conseil statue sur les demandes de substitution de numéros entre les hommes du même canton.

Art. 28. Les travaux des Conseils de Recrutement doivent être entièrement achevés au plus tard le 1er Juin de chaque année.

Art. 29. Le Sergent-Major de chaque district de milice tient, sous la surveillance et la responsabilité du Commandant Militaire du district, le Registre-Matricule de recrutement établi sur la base des listes mentionnées à l'Article 26.

Il tient également un contrôle spécial des engagés volontaires.

Toutes les mutations des hommes inscrits sont successivement portées sur ce contrôle, d'après les déclarations faites par les hommes eux-mêmes ou d'après les avis fournis par les Maires des communes.

III.—*Service Militaire.*

Art. 30. Tout habitant indigène de Roumélie déclaré apte au service militaire est appelé à faire partie :—

1. Du premier ban de la milice pendant quatre ans ;
2. Du deuxième ban de la milice pendant quatre ans ;
3. De la réserve de la milice pendant quatre ans.

Le premier ban de la milice se compose, indépendamment des engagés volontaires appelés à former les cadres permanents de la milice et du Bataillon-école, de tous les hommes déclarés aptes au service et appartenant aux quatre dernières classes appelées.

Le deuxième ban de la milice se compose des hommes déclarés aptes au service et appartenant aux quatre classes qui précèdent immédiatement les quatre classes dont le premier ban de la milice est formé.

La réserve est formée de tous les hommes qui ont accompli huit ans de service dans la milice du premier et du deuxième ban et qui appartiennent aux quatre classes suivantes.

En cas de péril national, tout habitant valide de province depuis l'âge de 18 ans jusqu'à l'âge de 50 ans est à la disposition du Gouverneur-Général pour la défense du territoire de la province.

Art. 31. Tous les hommes inscrits sur les listes de recensement cantonal qui n'ont pas été exemptés, ajournés, dispensés ou exclus font partie de la milice du premier ban.

Ils sont, en conséquence, inscrits immédiatement sur les contrôles du bataillon de milice du premier ban de leur district de recrutement et mis à la disposition de l'autorité militaire.

Toutefois, sauf le cas de mobilisation, ne sont appelés annuellement à l'activité, dans chaque district de recrutement, qu'un nombre d'hommes égal au quart de l'effectif du pied de guerre du bataillon de milice du premier ban, abstraction faite du cadre permanent.

Ces hommes sont pris, par ordre de numéro de tirage, dans la première partie de la liste de recrutement cantonale. Si deux ou plusieurs cantons sont appelés à faire partie d'un même district de recrutement, une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général, rendue sur la proposition du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, fixe proportionnellement au nombre d'hommes déclarés aptes au service, le nombre d'hommes appelés dans chaque canton.

Art. 32. Les hommes inscrits sur la première partie de la liste de recrutement qui, en vertu de l'Article 31, se trouvent en excédant du nombre d'hommes appelés, sont immédiatement classé dans la disponibilité. Ils demeurent à la disposition de l'autorité militaire en cas de mobilisation totale ou partielle. Ils sont tenus, en outre, de prendre part à des exercices de détail faits dans l'intérieur des communes, et peuvent être appelés, si l'état de finances le permet, à l'instruction bi-mensuelle et au manœuvres annuelles de la milice du premier ban.

Art. 33. Les jeunes gens dispensés ne peuvent être appelés à l'activité que dans le cas de mobilisation générale de la milice.

Art. 34. L'année de service est comptée à partir du 1er Octobre.

Chaque année, au 30 Septembre, on délivre aux hommes qui ont terminé leurs temps de service dans la milice du premier ban, leur temps de service dans la milice du deuxième ban, ou leur temps de service dans la réserve, un certificat de passage du premier au deuxième ban de la milice, du deuxième ban de la milice à la réserve, ou un certificat de libération définitive.

En cas de mobilisation motivée par des circonstances de guerre, ces certificats ne sont délivrés qu'après l'arrivée au corps des hommes de recrue destinés à remplacer les hommes libérés.

Art. 35. Lors de leur passage du premier au deuxième ban, les hommes sont, dans chaque district, rayés des contrôles du bataillon du premier ban et inscrits sur les contrôles de celui du deuxième ban.

Il est toujours fait mention dans ces inscriptions du numéro de tirage de l'homme.

Art. 36. Les hommes qui passent dans la réserve sont inscrits sur un contrôle spécial établi par district. A défaut d'un nombre suffisant de disponibles, ils sont appelés à compléter, en cas de mobilisation générale, l'effectif des bataillons du premier et du deuxième ban de la milice. L'appel a lieu par classe, en commençant par la classe la plus jeune.

Si la mobilisation s'étend seulement à la milice du premier ban, les hommes de complément sont pris parmi les hommes inscrits sur les contrôles du bataillon de milice du deuxième ban, en commençant toujours par la classe la plus jeune, et en suivant, dans chaque classe, l'ordre des numéros de tirage.

Art. 37. Les hommes de la milice peuvent se marier sans autorisation après avoir achevé leur première année de service dans la milice du premier ban. Les hommes mariés restent soumis aux mêmes obligations que les autres hommes de leur classe.

IV.—*Organisation.*

Art. 38. Chacun de ces douze districts établis conformément aux dispositions de l'Article 8 ci-dessus recrute un bataillon de milice du premier ban et un bataillon de milice du deuxième ban.

Le Commandant Militaire de chaque district est, en même temps, Commandant du bataillon de milice du premier ban du district.

Art. 39. Chaque bataillon de milice du premier ban possède un Etat-Major permanent, composé, outre le Commandant du bataillon, de deux officiers, et treize hommes de troupe, savoir :—

Un officier adjudant-major de bataillon ; un officier chargé de l'administration du bataillon ; deux sous-officiers et huit soldats (dont trois ordonnances, trois ouvriers, et deux secrétaires) ; un chef-armurier, ayant rang de sous-officier ; deux ouvriers armuriers.

Art. 40. Chaque bataillon du premier ban possède, en outre, en temps de paix, une compagnie active, dite compagnie présente, qui a pour destination d'instruire, d'une part, les hommes appartenant à la plus jeune classe de la milice pendant la période d'instruction qu'ils doivent passer sous les drapeaux durant leur première année de service, et, d'autre part, de concourir au maintien de l'ordre public et de fournir le service de garnison.

La compagnie présente a un cadre permanent, composé de :—

Un capitaine, Commandant de compagnie ; un lieutenant ; deux sous-lieutenants ; un sergent-major de compagnie ; cinq sergents, dont un fourrier ; neuf caporaux, dont un clairon.

L'effectif des soldats appartenant en permanence aux compagnies présentes est fixé annuellement lors du vote du budget ; il ne peut être inférieur à cinquante hommes par compagnie, non compris les ordonnances et les clairons.

Art. 41. Chaque sergent-major de district est assisté dans son service par un caporal et un soldat secrétaires ; ces hommes comptent pour ordre à la compagnie présente, et sont en excédant du cadre réglementaire de la compagnie.

Art. 42. Les bataillons de milice du premier et du deuxième ban sont à quatre compagnies ; leur composition est indiqué au Tableau A ci-annexé.

Art. 43. La milice est placée sous la direction supérieure du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie a le grade d'officier général. l'Etat-Major du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie se compose :

1. Un Chef d'Etat-Major, Directeur de la Chancellerie Militaire, ayant sous ses ordres directs deux officiers Chefs des Bureaux du Personnel et du Matériel ;
2. D'un officier supérieur, Directeur de l'Administration, ayant sous ses ordres directs deux officiers Chefs des Bureaux de l'Administration et du Contrôle ;
3. Deux officiers adjoints, faisant aussi fonctions d'Aides-de-camp ;
4. D'un certain nombre de sous-officiers, caporaux, et soldats secrétaires.

Art. 44. Indépendamment des bataillons de la milice locale, il est formé un Bataillon-école, destiné à compléter et à uniformiser l'instruction des officiers et sous-officiers indigènes de la milice et de la gendarmerie, à former des ouvriers techniques, et à assurer le fonctionnement des établissements militaires.

Le Bataillon-école se compose :—

1. De deux compagnies d'infanterie, dont la composition est réglée comme celle des compagnies présentes dans les bataillons de la milice du premier ban ;
2. D'un escadron de cavalerie ;
3. D'une demi-batterie d'artillerie, avec une section d'artificiers et d'armuriers ;

4. D'une compagnie d'ouvriers techniques, comprenant une section de sapeurs et une section d'ouvriers constructeurs.

La composition détaillée du Bataillon-école est donnée au Tableau B ci-annexé.

Art. 45. Les officiers, sous-officiers, caporaux, et soldats appartenant à l'Etat-Major de la milice, aux cadres permanents des bataillons, au service du recrutement et au Bataillon-école sont seuls entretenus et soldés aux frais du budget de la province.

Art. 46. L'effectif permanent des cadres présents, dont le détail est donné à l'Article 45, se recrute à l'aide d'engagés volontaires, conformément aux dispositions du Titre VI ci-annexé.

A défaut d'un nombre suffisant d'engagés volontaires, cet effectif est complété par le maintien sous les drapeaux d'un certain nombre d'hommes appartenant à la classe la plus jeune de la milice du premier ban; la durée de leur service est de deux ans au plus. Ces hommes sont pris parmi les numéros les plus bas de la liste du tirage; le nombre des hommes de cette catégorie est fixé annuellement par Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général rendue dans la forme d'un règlement d'administration.

V.—*Instruction.*

Art. 47. L'instruction est donnée aux hommes de la milice du premier ban dans les compagnies présentes de chaque bataillon. La durée de la période d'instruction des jeunes soldats est fixée à deux mois.

A cet effet, les recrues appelées annuellement à l'activité en exécution des dispositions de l'Article 31, sont, lors de leur inscription sur les contrôles du bataillon du premier ban de leur district, réparties entre les quatre compagnies de ce bataillon.

Les recrues appartenant à chacune des quatre compagnies sont appelés, à tour de rôle, de deux mois en deux mois, de façon que l'instruction, commencée au 1er Octobre, soit terminée, dans chaque bataillon, à la fin du huitième mois de la période d'instruction, c'est-à-dire, au 31 Mai de l'année suivante.

Art. 48. La période trimestrielle qui suit, comprenant les mois de Juin, Juillet, et Août, est consacrée à l'instruction des officiers et sous-officiers des cadres non-permanents de la milice du premier et du deuxième ban.

Les officiers et sous-officiers appartenant à ces cadres sont tenus de prendre part à ces cours d'instruction à raison de quinze jours par an. Toutefois, des dispenses d'exercices peuvent être accordées, par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, à ceux de ces officiers et sous-officiers qui en font la demande, à la condition que ces dispenses ne soient pas demandées plus d'une fois en deux ans.

Cette disposition ne s'applique pas aux fonctionnaires publics, qui peuvent obtenir des dispenses permanentes si la nature de leurs fonctions l'exige.

Les sous-officiers ont droit, pendant la durée de ce stage, à la nourriture et au logement; les officiers reçoivent la solde de leur grade.

Art. 49. Le mois de Septembre est consacré aux manœuvres annuelles de la milice, dont la durée ne peut excéder quatre semaines.

Sont appelés à y prendre part tous les hommes du premier ban de la milice, à l'exception de ceux de la classe la plus jeune, et, éventuellement, les miliciens disponibles du premier ban.

Art. 50. Si l'état des finances de la province le permet, un appel analogue pourra être adressé aux hommes du deuxième ban de la milice. La durée de cet appel ne devra pas excéder quinze jours par an.

Les réservistes prennent part aux exercices faits dans les communes, et dont le détail est fixé par décision du Gouverneur-Général.

Art. 51. Les hommes de la milice du premier et du deuxième ban régulièrement convoqués pour prendre part aux manœuvres annuelles, ont droit à la nourriture et au logement. La nourriture est fournie par les soins des municipalités, à charge de remboursement par le budget de la province. Le logement est donné chez les habitants à défaut de place dans les batiments militaires. On s'attachera, autant que possible, à loger les miliciens chez leurs coreligionnaires des localités occupées par eux.

Il n'est pas alloué de frais de route aux officiers, sous-officiers, et soldats appelés à prendre part aux manœuvres.

Les officiers des cadres non-permanents reçoivent seulement la solde de leur grade calculée en raison du nombre de jours écoulés entre celui de leur départ et celui de leur retour au lieu ordinaires de leur résidence.

Art. 52. Les manœuvres peuvent avoir lieu par compagnie ou par bataillon, et, éventuellement, par groupes de bataillons. Dans ce dernier cas, les fractions mobiles du Bataillon-école peuvent également être appelées à y participer.

Une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général rendue dans la forme d'un règlement d'administration publique détermine, chaque année, la nature et la durée des manœuvres. Elles doivent toujours être terminées avant le 1er Octobre, date de l'incorporation des jeunes soldats.

Art. 53. Les officiers et sous-officiers de la milice proposés pour l'avancement aux différents grades d'officiers doivent, en principe, faire un stage d'instruction au Bataillon-école. La durée du stage est de deux mois au moins, et ne peut excéder six mois.

Pendant leur séjour au bataillon, les officiers ont droit à la solde de leur grade; les sous-officiers sont seulement logés et nourris.

Tout homme admis à contracter un engagement dans la gendarmerie à cheval est dirigé d'abord sur le Bataillon-école, où il suit, pendant six semaines au moins, les exercices de l'escadron de cavalerie. Les officiers promus dans la gendarmerie doivent, de même, aussitôt que possible après leur promotion, faire un stage analogue à l'escadron du Bataillon-école.

VI.—*Engagements et Rengagements.*

Art. 54. Tout habitant indigène de la province peut être admis à contracter un engagement volontaire dans le cadre permanent de la milice du premier ban ou du Bataillon-école aux conditions suivantes:—

L'engagé volontaire doit:—

1. Avoir 18 ans accomplis et l'aptitude physique exigé pour le service militaire;

2. Jouir de ses droits civils, et n'avoir pas été condamné à une peine correctionnelle excédant trois mois de prison;

3. N'être ni marié ni veuf avec enfants;

4. Si l'engagé n'a pas 21 ans accomplis, être porteur du consentement des ses père, mère, ou tuteur;

5. Produire les attestations légales d'une bonne conduite soutenue.

Art. 55. La durée de l'engagement est de deux ans. Les années passées au service en qualité d'engagé volontaire sont comptées en déduction du temps de service exigé dans la milice et dans la réserve.

Art. 56. Les miliciens du premier ban, à quelque ban, à quelque catégorie qu'ils appartiennent, sont autorisés à contracter des engagements volontaires dans les conditions stipulées aux Articles précédents.

Art. 57. L'engagement volontaire est contracté par devant le Sergent-Major du district, sur la présentation d'un certificat d'aptitude physique délivré par un médecin désigné par le Commandant Militaire du district.

Art. 58. Le nombre des engagements volontaires recevables est fixé annuellement par le Gouverneur-Général après le vote du budget de la milice.

Les engagements pour les bataillons du milice sont reçus seulement pendant la période de quatre mois qui s'écoule entre la clôture et la reprise de l'instruction annuelle. Les engagements pour le Bataillon-école sont reçus durant toute l'année dans les limites de nombre indiquées à l'alinéa précédent.

Art. 59. Les sous-officiers, caporaux et soldats servant à titre permanent peuvent être autorisés par leur chef de corps à se rengager pour un an au moins, et deux ans au plus.

Les rengagements ne sont plus autorisés quand l'homme a dépassé sa vingt-huitième année, s'il est caporal ou soldat.

Les rengagements des sous-officiers peuvent être autorisés jusqu'à ce que leur temps de service leur donne droit à la retraite.

Art. 60. Tout milicien rengagé a droit, à partir du premier jour de sa cinquième année de service permanent, à une haute-paie journalière d'ancienneté dont le chiffre est fixé, pour les soldats, caporaux, et sous-officiers, par le Règlement Provisoire ci-annexé,

Cette haute-paie s'augmente annuellement jusqu'à la huitième année de service, après laquelle elle cesse de croître.

Art. 61. Tout milicien rengagé porte sur la manche un chevron en laine; ce chevron est en or pour les sous-officiers et pour les caporaux et soldats ayant six ans de service accomplis.

Art. 62. Les rengagements sont reçus devant le Commandant Militaire du district ou devant le Commandant du Bataillon-école.

VII.—*Mobilisation.*

Art. 63. La mobilisation est partielle ou générale.

La mobilisation partielle est prescrite par une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général rendue dans la forme d'un règlement d'administration publique.

La mobilisation générale ne peut être ordonnée par le Gouverneur-Général qu'après un vote conforme de l'Assemblée Provinciale, spécialement convoquée à cet effet, sauf dans le cas prévu à l'Article 2.

Art. 64. En cas de mobilisation du premier ban de la milice, les hommes instruits des quatre classes de cette catégorie appelés au drapeau sont renforcés, s'il est nécessaire, par l'appel des disponibles des mêmes classes, ou par celui des hommes inscrits sur les Contrôles du deuxième ban.

Art. 65. Outre le bataillon mobile à quatre compagnies, il est formé alors une section de dépôt, dans laquelle sont encadrés les hommes en excédant de l'effectif normal du bataillon mobile. Le Capitaine de la compagnie présente à le commandement territorial du district.

Art. 66. La milice du deuxième ban forme, de même, en cas de mobilisation, un bataillon mobile à quatre compagnies; l'excédant des hommes est versé dans la section de dépôt commune aux deux bataillons. L'effectif du bataillon est formé des miliciens instruits du deuxième ban, des disponibles appartenant à cette catégorie et du nombre des réservistes nécessaire.

Art. 67. Si les deux bans de la milice sont mobilisés en même temps, les hommes de complément, pour les bataillons des deux bans, sont pris exclusivement parmi les disponibles et parmi les réservistes.

Art. 68. Dans le cas de mobilisation générale ou partielle, les officiers de tous grades appelés à l'activité ont droit à la solde de leur grade à partir du jour où ils se mettent en route pour rejoindre le corps.

Les hommes de troupe, à l'exception de ceux qui appartiennent aux cadres permanents, ont droit seulement à la nourriture et au logement.

Art. 69. Dans le cas où, par suite de circonstances de guerre, la province se trouverait dégarnie de forces militaires suffisantes, le Gouverneur-Général peut organiser, avec les réservistes disponibles, des compagnies ou bataillons provisoires de réserve; ces bataillons créés en raison du besoin, n'ont pas de cadres permanents.

Art. 70. Il n'est pas formé, en temps ordinaire, de divisions ou brigades.

Les divisions ou brigades temporairement formées à l'occasion des manœuvres n'ont ni chefs permanents, ni Etats-Majors constitués.

Dans le cas seulement où, par application des dispositions de l'Article 2 ci-dessus, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Sultan viendrait à faire appel au concours militaire de la milice, il pourra être formé des divisions et brigades.

Les brigades seront ordinairement à six bataillons; la division est formée de la réunion de deux à trois brigades.

Les unes et les autres peuvent être composées indistinctement de bataillons du premier ban et de bataillons du deuxième ban de la milice.

Les fonctions de Commandant de division et brigade seront dévolues, à titre provisoire, aux officiers déjà en service dans la milice.

Art. 71. La création éventuelle d'escadrons de cavalerie, de batteries d'artillerie, de troupes du train, d'hopitaux, etc., nécessitée par la mise sur le pied de guerre de la milice ou d'une partie de la milice, est ordonnée par une loi provinciale.

Art. 72. Le droit de réquisition est exercé seulement en cas de mobilisation partielle ou générale de la milice et lorsqu'il est impossible de pourvoir aux besoins par d'autres moyens.

Il est limité, en temps de paix, au logement, à la fourniture des vivres, des fourrages et du chauffage, et à l'occupation ou à l'usage momentané, à l'occasion des manœuvres, de terrains cultivés, bois, fontaines, etc.

Le droit de réquisition appartient seulement au chef d'une troupe ou détachement, qui l'exerce sous sa responsabilité.

Toute réquisition, à l'exception de celles qui sont relatives au logement ou à l'usage des eaux, donne lieu à la délivrance d'un bon de réquisition remboursable.

Art. 73. En temps de guerre, le droit de réquisition s'étend également aux chevaux, voitures et moyens de transport de toute nature, y compris les chemins de fer; aux embarcations fluviales et maritimes; aux matériaux susceptibles d'être utilisés dans un but de guerre; en un mot, à tous les services et objets dont l'emploi est exceptionnellement nécessité par l'intérêt militaire.

Art. 74. Une loi provinciale, établie sur les bases indiquées aux deux Articles ci-dessus, fixera les Tarifs d'indemnités alloués en raison des réquisitions et déterminera les conditions d'exercice de ce droit.

Art. 75. En temps de paix comme en temps de guerre, les médecins, officiers de santé et pharmaciens sont astreints, à défaut des membres du corps de santé militaire, à donner leurs soins aux officiers, sous-officiers, et soldats de la milice, et de la gendarmerie présents au corps. Ils doivent également, dans la limite du besoin, concourir à l'organisation et au fonctionnement des hôpitaux temporaires créés, à l'occasion des manœuvres, à proximité du lieu de leur résidence.

Toutes les fois que les soins médicaux à donner aux gendarmes et au miliciens occasionneront un déplacement d'une heure au moins, il sera alloué aux médecins requis des honoraires calculés à raison de la distance parcourue. Les médicaments fournis seront remboursés aux pharmaciens sur prix de facture.

VIII.—*Administration.*

Art. 76. L'administration et la comptabilité des troupes de la milice sont confiées, en temps de paix, dans chaque district de milice, à l'officier d'Administration adjoint à l'Etat-Major du Commandant Militaire du district.

Cet officier centralise l'administration et la comptabilité des bataillons du premier et du deuxième ban. Il est dirigé et surveillé par une Commission Administrative dont il fait lui-même partie avec voix délibérative.

Pour toutes les affaires relatives au cadre permanent et au bataillon du premier ban, la Commission Administrative se compose: du Commandant militaire du district, président, d'un officier du cadre de la compagnie présente et de l'officier d'Administration. Elle est complétée par l'adjonction de l'officier commandant le bataillon du deuxième ban et d'un officier de ce bataillon pour toutes les affaires relatives au bataillon du deuxième ban.

Art. 77. En cas de mobilisation, l'officier d'Administration, qui reste auprès du Commandant de la section de dépôt commune aux bataillons du premier et du deuxième ban, centralise toutes les pièces relatives à l'Administration et à la comptabilité des deux bataillons mobiles. Il est remplacé, dans chacun de ces bataillons, par un officier payeur agissant sous la direction d'une Commission Provisoire de bataillon dont il fait partie et qui se compose du Commandant du bataillon et d'un officier de troupe.

Art. 78. Le Bataillon-école s'administre séparément par les soins de l'officier chargé de l'administration du bataillon et d'une Commission Administrative établie sur les mêmes bases que celles des bataillons de la milice du premier ban.

Si une fraction mobile du Bataillon-école est détachée momentanément, elle est provisoirement administrée par la Commission Administrative du district dans le ressort de laquelle elle se trouve.

Art. 79. Le contrôle est exercé par l'officier supérieur attaché à l'Etat-Major du Commandant de la milice et la gendarmerie en qualité de Directeur de l'Administration et du Contrôle.

Des employés civils, à défaut d'officiers compétents, peuvent être adjoints pour le contrôle des comptes. Il peut en être de même pour les divers emplois administratifs rattachés à l'Etat-Major du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Le service des inspections administratives est confié, jusqu'à la création d'un personnel spécial de contrôle, à des officiers supérieurs de la milice désignés par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Art. 80. Les dispositions relatives au service de la solde, à la tenue des Registres-Matricules des corps, à l'établissement des pièces de comptabilité, aux services de l'habillement, de l'armement, du harnachement et du campement, à l'établissement des comptes annuels de gestion et des inventaires, enfin, à la conservation des archives, seront fixées par une loi provinciale, ou, s'il n'y a pas de dépenses engagées, par Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général.

Il y est pourvu, jusqu'à nouvel ordre, en ce qui concerne les dispositions les plus urgentes, par les Titres 3, 4, 5, et 6 du Règlement ci-annexé, qui demeure exécutoire jusqu'au vote de la Loi Provinciale prévue à l'alinéa précédent.

Art. 81. Une loi provinciale déterminera les conditions d'admission à la retraite des officiers, sous-officiers, et soldats de la milice et de la gendarmerie, fixera le taux des pensions, celui des gratifications accordées aux militaires infirmes et celui des congés.

IX.—*Dispositions Générales.*

Art. 82. La division du territoire de la province en douze districts de recrutement, conformément aux dispositions de l'Article 8, est établie par une Ordonnance du Gouverneur-Général rendue dans la forme d'un règlement d'administration publique.

Elle est provisoirement déterminée par le Titre I du Règlement Provisoire ci-annexé.

Art. 83. Conformément aux dispositions du Chapitre I, Article 7, les officiers subalternes de la milice sont nommés par le Gouverneur-Général agissant en vertu de la délégation permanente de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Art. 84. Les conditions de l'avancement dans les cadres permanents et non-permanents de la milice seront fixées par une loi spéciale. Elles sont provisoirement déterminées par le Titre II du Règlement Provisoire ci-annexé.

Art. 85. Les officiers et sous-officiers de nationalité étrangère admis dans la milice par application de l'Article 7 sont liés au service par des contrats établis conformément aux dispositions du Chapitre XIII, Article 20.

Art. 86. La possession des grades, pour les officiers indigènes de la milice, est entourée des garanties stipulées au Chapitre XIII, Articles 21 et 22.

Il est fait application aux sous-officiers et caporaux de la milice des dispositions prescrites au Chapitre XIII, Article 23.

Art. 87. Les dispositions relatives au casernement feront l'objet d'une loi provinciale.

Jusqu'à nouvel ordre, les miliciens présents au drapeau demeureront logés chez l'habitant.

Art. 88. Les armes appartenant aux deux bataillons de milice de chaque district ainsi que les effets d'habillement et d'equipement sont ordinairement déposés dans un magasin spécial placé sous la surveillance du Commandant Militaire du district.

Les miliciens ne sont pas autorisés à emporter leurs effets et leurs armes dans leurs foyers. Il ne pourra être fait exception à cette règle que sur un ordre spécial du Gouverneur-Général, pour permettre certains exercices de tir.

Art. 89. Toute la liberté compatible avec le bien du service est laissée aux hommes de la milice pour l'exécution de leurs devoirs religieux.

Art. 90. Les bataillons de la milice font usage de fanions de bataillon de couleurs variées destinés à les distinguer entre eux. Ces fanions et leurs hampes ne portent pas de signes particuliers autres que les numéros des bataillons.

Art. 91. La valeur d'une organisation militaire ne pouvant être appréciée dans ses détails qu'après expérience, le pouvoir législatif de la province est autorisé, après un délai de deux ans à partir de la promulgation du présent Statut, à introduire les modifications jugées nécessaires dans les dispositions des Articles 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 34, 41, 42, 43, 44, 48, 49, 50, 51, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 60, 61, 62, 68, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 85, et 86 ci-dessus qui n'ont qu'une portée d'ordre administratif. Ces modifications devront faire l'objet d'une loi provinciale.

Disposition Transitoire.

Art. 92. Jusqu'à la promulgation d'un Code Pénal militaire et de règlements tactiques et de service spéciaux à la province, il sera fait usage, dans la milice et dans la gendarmerie, du Code Pénal militaire en vigueur dans l'armée Ottomane et des règlements actuellement en service dans les corps militaires provisoires créés depuis la paix, sauf les modifications résultant de l'organisation même de la milice.

Inclosure 2 in No. 709.

CHAPITRE XIII.—GENDARMERIE.

(Adopté en première lecture.)

I.—*Bases de l'Institution.*

ARTICLE 1er. La gendarmerie est une force indigène instituée pour veiller à la sûreté publique et pour assurer le maintien de l'ordre, l'exécution des lois et celle des règlements de police rendus par les autorités compétentes. Une surveillance continue et répressive constitue l'essence de son service; son action s'exerce dans toute l'étendue du territoire de la province.

Art. 2. La gendarmerie est particulièrement destinée à assurer la sûreté des villes, des campagnes, et des voies de communication. Elle contribue, en outre, de concert avec les agents de la police rurale, à surveiller les lieux publics et à y maintenir l'ordre. A ce titre, elle est toujours aux ordres des représentants de l'autorité administrative pour dissiper, par les voies légales, les attroupements séditieux.

Le gendarmerie est subordonnée également aux fonctionnaires de l'ordre judiciaire pour procéder aux enquêtes et aux recherches, pour en constater les résultats par procès-verbaux et pour opérer les arrestations en vertu de mandats d'amener.

Au cas de flagrant délit ou de suspicion légitimée par des informations probantes, elle a le droit de procéder spontanément aux arrestations, à chargé pour elle d'en dresser immédiatement procès-verbal et de conduire, dans les vingt-quatre heures au plus tard, les personnes arrêtées devant l'officier de police judiciaire dans le ressort duquel l'arrestation a eu lieu.

Elle peut enfin être chargée de conduire et d'escorter les prisonniers civils ou militaires, les fous dangereux, les convois d'armes et de munitions, et, d'une manière générale, de remplir toutes les missions qui lui sont confiées par l'autorité administrative pour assurer le maintien de l'ordre à l'intérieur de la province.

Art. 3. La gendarmerie est placée, au point de vue de la discipline, de l'instruction, et de l'administration intérieures, sous les ordres directs du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Art. 4. La gendarmerie est directement subordonnée à l'autorité administrative et judiciaire pour l'exécution des dispositions contenues à l'Article 2; elle est, en conséquence, tenue d'obéir à toutes les réquisitions qui lui sont adressées par les fonctionnaires indiqués ci-dessus.

Les réquisitions doivent toujours être adressées au Chef du détachement ou, en cas de refus, à celui qui commande immédiatement après lui. Elles doivent être formulées par écrit, si le Chef de détachement en fait la demande et ne peuvent être données et exécutées que dans le ressort de celui qui les donne et de celui qui les exécute.

Art. 5. La gendarmerie peut, en cas de besoin, requérir, pour l'exécution de son mandat, ou toutes les fois qu'elle se sent gravement menacée, le concours des agents de la police rurale, des gardes forestiers et même celui des simples citoyens.

Si elle se sent impuissante à remplir, sans le secours d'une force supplétive, une mission qui lui est confiée, elle prend, vis-à-vis de l'autorité administrative, l'initiative d'une proposition tendant à requérir la coopération des fractions permanentes de la milice locale.

Art. 6. Dans le cas où l'apparition de bandes armées mettrait en danger la sécurité d'une localité qui n'est pas le siége d'un fonctionnaire administratif, la gendarmerie prend immédiatement, à charge d'en rendre compte sans retard, les dispositions nécessaires pour protéger la vie et les biens des citoyens. Elle peut, pour repousser une attaque ou poursuivre les perturbateurs, requérir les agents de la police locale et elle en prend, de droit, le commandement.

Art. 7. Tout gendarme, dans l'exercice de ces fonctions, est investi des pouvoirs dévolus à une sentinelle; toute injure ou tout acte de résistance donne lieu à une poursuite devant les Tribunaux militaires et la pénalité est la même que pour injure ou rébellion contre une sentinelle.

Art. 8. Les droits et les devoirs du personnel de la gendarmerie, les détails de ses rapports avec les autorités civiles des divers ordres, et les instructions spéciales sur le service ordinaire et extraordinaire seront déterminés par un règlement d'administration publique.

Un Règlement annexé à ce Chapitre détermine provisoirement le mode d'application immédiate de ces dispositions.

II.—*Organisation.*

Art. 9. L'unité d'organisation de la gendarmerie est la brigade. La brigade comprend de six à huit hommes.

Elle est composée d'hommes à pied ou d'hommes à cheval, il peut être aussi créé des brigades mixtes, composée d'hommes à pied et d'hommes à cheval.

La brigade est commandée par un sous-officier ou par un brigadier.

Art. 10. La réunion de six à douze brigades constitue la section, sous les ordres d'un officier.

Art. 11. La compagnie est formée par la réunion sous un même commandement de deux à quatre sections. Le Chef de la compagnie est un capitaine.

Art. 12. Les Commandants de compagnie sont établis au chef-lieu des préfectures ; leur ressort ne s'étend pas au delà des limites du département.

Les Commandants de section sont placés au chef-lieu des cantons. Deux cantons peuvent toutefois être réunis pour former le ressort d'une même section ; dans ce cas, un sous-officier exerce le commandement direct dans le canton où ne réside pas le commandant de la section.

Art. 13. En dehors des compagnies de gendarmerie départementale, il est formé, au chef-lieu de la province, un corps de gendarmerie mobile. Ce corps est plus spécialement chargé du service de police urbaine au siége du Gouvernement ; il est aussi à la disposition du Gouverneur-Général, qui le dirige sur les points où les circonstances rendent momentanément nécessaire la présence d'une force auxiliaire.

La gendarmerie mobile, dont l'effectif varie selon l'état des ressources financières de la province, comprend un cadre de compagnie d'infanterie et un demi cadre d'escadron.

L'effectif permanent de la compagnie d'infanterie ne pourra être inférieur à soixante-dix hommes, celui de l'escadron à quarante cavaliers.

La gendarmerie mobile est commandée par un capitaine ou par un officier supérieur.

Art. 14. L'Etat-Major du corps de la gendarmerie comprend, en dehors du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie :

1. Un officier supérieur spécialement chargé du service des inspections et appelé à suppléer en cas d'empêchement le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie ;
2. Un capitaine ou officier supérieur, Chef de la Chancellerie ;
3. Un Officier Trésorier ;
4. Un Officier Adjoint au Trésorier (facultatif) ;
5. Un Officier chargé de l'habillement, de l'équipement, et de l'armement.

Un petit Etat-Major, composé de sous-officiers, brigadiers, et gendarmes, dont l'effectif est déterminé en raison du besoin et des ressources financières, est à la disposition des officiers de l'Etat-Major du corps pour remplir les fonctions de secrétaires et de garde-magasin. Ces hommes sont classés dans la gendarmerie mobile, en excédant du cadre réglementaire.

Il est formé, dans le corps, un Conseil d'Administration composé :

1. De l'Officier Supérieur Inspecteur, Président du Conseil ;
2. Du Chef de la Chancellerie ;
3. De l'Officier Trésorier ;
4. De l'Officier d'Habillement ;
5. Du Capitaine commandant la compagnie du chef-lieu, ou de l'officier commandant la gendarmerie mobile, à tour de rôle.

Le Conseil est collectivement responsable de la bonne gestion des deniers et matières.

Art. 15. Le Gouverneur-Général détermine, sur la proposition du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie et du Secrétaire-Général Directeur de l'Intérieur, la répartition des sections et des brigades dans les départements et cantons.

Le nombre des brigades et l'effectif des hommes à pied et à cheval sont fixés annuellement, dans des limites indiquées aux Articles 9 et 10, lors du vote du budget par l'Assemblée Provinciale.

La composition intérieure des brigades, en gendarmes à pied et gendarmes à cheval, est fixée par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, après entente avec le Directeur de l'Intérieur.

Le Gouverneur-Général, sur la proposition du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie et du Secrétaire-Général Directeur de l'Intérieur procède, selon les besoins du service, aux mutations dans le personnel des officiers ; les mutations, pour les sous-officiers, brigadiers et gendarmes, sont ordonnées par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Art. 16. Les officiers commandant les sections et les capitaines commandant les compagnies remplissent, respectivement, les fonctions de Commissaires et de Commissaires Centraux de Police, dans le ressort de leur section de leur compagnie.

Par exception, le Capitaine commandant la compagnie départementale du chef-lieu de la province n'est pas investi de ces fonctions pour cette ville elle-même. Celles-ci sont dévolues au Commandant de la gendarmerie mobile, qui est assisté, dans ce service, par les officiers subalternes placés sous ses ordres directs.

Art. 17. Les Préfets sont autorisés à modifier temporairement, en cas de besoin, l'état de répartition des brigades, en détachant, sur un point donné, le nombre de gendarmes qu'ils jugent nécessaire.

III.—*Dispositions Générales.*

Ils transmettent, à cet effet, des ordres aux Commandants de compagnie, qui sont tenus d'y déférer immédiatement. Les Préfets doivent en rendre compte sans retard au Secrétaire-Général Directeur de l'Intérieur. Les Commandants de compagnie, de leur côté, informent le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

Art. 18. Conformément aux dispositions du Chapitre I, Article 7, les officiers subalternes de la gendarmerie sont nommés par le Gouverneur-Général agissant en vertu de la délégation permanente de Sa Majesté le Sultan. Ils sont recrutés, soit parmi les officiers de la milice, sur la proposition de leurs chefs hiérarchiques, soit parmi les sous-officiers du corps de la gendarmerie, conformément aux dispositions réglementaires sur l'avancement.

A défaut de candidats de ces deux catégories, et, en particulier, pour la période d'organisation, le Gouverneur-Général est autorisé à nommer, sur la proposition d'une Commission présidée par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, soit des habitants de la province, soit des militaires ou d'anciens militaires étrangers.

Les uns et les autres ne sont toutefois admis qu'après constatation de leur aptitude technique.

Art. 19. Les sous-officiers et gendarmes de première classe sont nommés par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie sur des états de propositions établis par les Commandants de compagnie et approuvés par les Préfets.

Art. 20. Les officiers et sous-officiers de nationalité étrangère peuvent, en exécution des dispositions de l'Article 18, être admis dans la gendarmerie de la Roumélie Orientale, en vertu de contrats renouvelables à durée limitée ; ces contrats, qui déterminent la durée de leur engagement, le grade qui leur est attribué, et le dédit pécuniaire qui leur est alloué en cas de résiliation anticipée, doivent être approuvés par une délibération spéciale du Comité Permanent.

Ces contrats ne peuvent, de même, être résiliés par le Gouverneur-Général que sur l'avis conforme du dit Comité.

Dans le cas où un officier étranger serait révoqué comme coupable d'un crime ou délit, en vertu d'un Arrêt du Conseil de Guerre, le contrat se trouve résilié de fait, et l'officier perd tout droit au paiement d'une indemnité.

Art. 21. La possession des grades conférés aux officiers originaires de la province, ou qui y ont acquis l'indigénat est entourée des garanties ci-après indiquées :—

Tout officier indigène ne peut être suspendu ou révoqué que par décision du Gouverneur-Général, ou par Arrêt du Conseil de Guerre.

La suspension est prononcée par le Gouverneur-Général sur la proposition du Conseil Privé. La durée de la suspension par mesure disciplinaire ne peut excéder six mois ; elle est d'un an au plus, lorsqu'elle est prononcée pour cause d'infirmités temporaires. A l'expiration de cette période de six mois ou d'un an, le Gouverneur-Général soumet au Comité Permanent la question de la réintégration de l'officier ; le Comité formule un avis motivé concluant à la révocation, à la mise à la retraite, ou à la révocation de l'officier.

L'officier suspendu conserve la qualité d'officier ; il a droit, pendant la durée de sa suspension, à une solde de non-activité, à la condition de fixer sa résidence dans une localité déterminée par le Gouverneur-Général. Tout refus d'obéissance de sa part entraîne de droit la révocation.

La révocation ne peut être prononcée par le Gouverneur-Général que sur l'avis conforme du Comité Permanent de l'Assemblée Provinciale ; la décision affirmative de ce Comité n'oblige toutefois le Gouverneur-Général à prononcer la révocation que dans le cas de récidive.

La révocation par Arrêt du Conseil de Guerre est prononcée en conformité des lois militaires en vigueur dans la province.

L'officier révoqué perd tous ses droits à la retraite, aux honneurs et à la solde de son grade, et cesse d'appartenir au corps de la gendarmerie.

Art. 22. Les décisions relatives à la suspension ou à la révocation sont immédiatement exécutoires ; il ne peut y être fait appel.

Par exception à cette disposition générale, le Gouverneur-Général est obligé de soumettre à la ratification de Sa Majesté le Sultan l'arrêté de révocation rendu contre tout officier supérieur. Jusqu'à arrivée de la décision Impériale le concernant, l'officier supérieur mis en cause est seulement considéré comme suspendu.

Art. 23. La cassation et la rétrogradation des sous-officiers et brigadiers sont prononcées par le Gouverneur-Général sur la proposition du Conseil d'Administration du corps, qui remplit, en ces circonstances, le rôle de Conseil de Discipline.

La suspension, pour les sous-officiers et brigadiers, et la cassation, pour les gendarmes de première classe, sont prononcées par le Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie.

La durée de la suspension ne peut excéder trois mois.

Art. 24. La composition du personnel de la gendarmerie est réglée par le Gouverneur-Général, sur la proposition collective du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie, et du Secrétaire-Général Directeur de l'Intérieur, de façon à établir une proportion équitable entre les divers éléments de la population de la province.

Cette proportion devra se trouver, autant que possible, dans la constitution des cadres.

Il sera tenu compte des mêmes principes pour la répartition des membres de la gendarmerie entre les différentes localités.

Art. 25. La gendarmerie est recrutée par voie d'engagements volontaires.

Ne sont admis à s'engager dans la gendarmerie que les hommes ayant terminé leur première année de service dans la milice locale. Cette disposition sera exécutoire deux ans seulement après la promulgation du présent Statut.

La durée du premier engagement est de deux ans. Il peut être renouvelé d'année en année, jusqu'à ce que l'homme ait atteint 25 ans de services effectifs, époque à laquelle il a droit à la retraite.

Le Gouverneur-Général est toujours en droit d'annuler les engagements.

Art. 26. Nul ne peut être admis à s'engager comme gendarme :—

1. S'il ne produit les attestations légales d'une bonne conduite soutenue.

2. S'il n'est doué d'une bonne constitution.

Nul ne peut être admis comme brigadier ou être promu à ce grade, s'il ne sait lire, et écrire dans une des trois langues principales de la province.

Art. 27. Tout gendarme rengagé a droit, à partir du premier jour de sa cinquième année de service dans la gendarmerie, à une haute-paie journalière d'ancienneté, dont le chiffre est fixé, pour les soldats, brigadiers, et sous-officiers, par le Règlement Provisoire ci-annexé.

Cette haute-paie s'augmente annuellement jusqu'à la huitième année de service, après laquelle elle cesse de croître.

Tout gendarme rengagé porte sur la manche un chevron en laine ; ce chevron est en or pour les sous-officiers et pour les gendarmes ayant six ans de services accomplis.

Art. 28. Tout ancien gendarme qui rentre dans ses foyers après huit années de service, et qui est porteur d'un certificat de bonne conduite délivré par le Conseil d'Administration du corps, est exempt des corvées et des prestations en nature pour les travaux de voirie, et la fourniture ou la conduite des chevaux et voiture de réquisition.

Art. 29. Une loi provinciale fixera la solde des officiers, sous-officiers, et gendarmes, déterminera l'uniforme, l'équipement, et l'armement, et réglera les tarifs des frais de tournées supplémentaires, indemnités, et gratifications. Elle déterminera l'organisation des services de la remonte, des fourrages du casernement, et des vivres, ainsi que celui des pensions et secours. Des dispositions spéciales seront prises pour assurer l'instruction des enfants des gendarmes mariés.

Les plus urgentes de ces dispositions sont déterminées, à titre provisoire, par le Règlement ci-annexé, qui demeure exécutoire jusqu'au vote de la loi provinciale prévue à l'alinéa précédent.

Art. 30. Le pouvoir législatif de la province est autorisé, après un délai de deux ans à partir de la promulgation du présent Statut, à introduire les modifications jugées nécessaires dans les dispositions des Articles 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, 25, 27, et 28, ci-dessus, qui n'ont qu'une portée d'ordre administratif.

Ces modifications devront faire l'objet d'une loi provinciale.

No. 710.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29.)

(No. 315.)

Constantinople, April 12, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a letter from Monsignor Nerces, the Armenian Patriarch, relative to the wishes of the Armenian community on the subject of the reforms to be introduced into Asia Minor under the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have lost no time in communicating the substance of the Patriarch's letter to the Porte, and have informed his Beatitude of my having done so.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 710.

Monsignor Nerces to Mr. Malet.

Le 27 *Mars* (v. s.), 1879.

(Extrait.)

LA communauté Arménienne a demandé la formation d'une Commission Internationale à Constantinople chargée d'arrêter les bases des réformes à introduire en Arménie. Cette proposition ayant été rejetée par la Sublime Porte la communauté a désiré indiquer les Commissaires Arméniens qui doivent accompagner les Commissaires Turcs pour les aider à réaliser l'amélioration du sort des populations d'Arménie Turque. Cette proposition a aussi été écartée et le Gouvernement Impérial envoie ses Commissaires en Asie pour mettre à exécution les réformes prescrites dans le Traité de Berlin. Ces Commissaires sont chargés de former dans certaines provinces des Commissions spéciales, qui devront indiquer les améliorations et les réformes exigées par les besoins locaux.

Les Arméniens désirant que l'élément indigène soit largement représenté dans ces Commissions conformément aux dispositions de l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin, ils désirent qu'une gendarmerie mixte soit organisée chez eux pour garantir leur sécurité contre les Circassiens et les Kurdes, en conformité des dispositions de l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin. Ils désirent aussi que des Tribunaux Mixtes soient organisés sans plus de retard formés suivant l'importance numérique des races indigènes. Ils réclament de plus pour leur pays une loi agraire qui puisse satisfaire aux besoins des populations.

Tels seraient les vœux et les réclamations des Arméniens à l'occasion de la mise à exécution de l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin, et en prenant la liberté de prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien les prendre en sérieuse considération, j'ai l'honneur, &c.

No. 711.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29.)

(No. 318.)

Constantinople, April 15, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter from the Armenian Patriarch, showing the suffering caused to the Armenian population in Asia by the depreciation of caimé, and representing the hardship of their being called upon to pay taxes in coin.

I have not communicated the Patriarch's remarks to the Porte, as I fear that they would only create irritation and produce no good result. The measures adopted by the Porte with regard to caimé affect the Mussulman and Christian population alike, and the argument of the Patriarch, that the Armenians are the greatest sufferers because they are the most numerous sect of Christians, would not warrant the interference of the Embassy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 711.

Monsignor Nerces to Mr. Malet.

M. le Ministre, *Constantinople, le 29 Mars*, 1879.

JE prends la liberté d'inviter l'attention de votre Excellence sur un fait très-déplorable et très-fécond en résultats désastreux.

Votre Excellence a dû être informé que le papier-monnaie Turc, si déprécié à Constantinople, n'a plus aucune valeur en province. Le gros de nos populations provinciales n'a que du caïmé, et comme personne n'en veut plus, ces populations sont menacées aujourd'hui de mourir de faim. Cette provision est déjà confirmée par les nouvelles qui nous arrivent d'Izmidt et de Trébizonde, où le pain a coûté jusqu'à 30 piastres en caïmé, mais où le papier-monnaie a cessé d'avoir cours. Quant aux populations de l'intérieur de la Turquie d'Asie votre Excellence sait bien que dans ce pays Musulman les Chrétiens sont exposés a des impôts plus lourds. On n'a qu'à jeter un coup d'œil sur le registre des impôts immobiliers de la capitale pour remarquer combien l'autorité est douce vers les Musulmans et sévère envers les Chrétiens, les fonctionnaires étant recrutés pour la majeure partie parmi les Musulmans à l'exclusion des Chrétiens, même dans les localités ou ceux-ci forment une majorité respectable, contrairement à la justice et aux Traités internationaux.

Les Arméniens déjà réduits à la pauvreté par les spoliations des Kurdes, des Circassiens, des Begs, et malfaiteurs Turcs, des zaptiehs, et des autorités locales, et par leurs contributions directes et indirectes lors de la dernière guerre, aussi bien qu'en participant à l'emprunt forcé et en supportant toutes sortes de corvées, se verront réduits à la dernière misère, aujourd'hui que le caïmé qu'on leur a donné en échange du fruit de plusieurs années de labeur ne vaut plus rien, et qu'il est rejeté par le Gouvernement Impérial lui-même, qui ordonne de relever des impôts en argent monnayé.

En prenant la liberté d'inviter l'attention de votre Excellence sur ces faits hautement regrettables, je vous prie, M. le Ministre, de vouloir bien intervenir auprès de la Sublime Porte pour l'apporter a remédier cet état de choses, en faisant arrêter la perception des impôts jusqu'à ce que la question du caïmé soit réglé d'une manière définitive et supportable aux populations, et que l'élément Chrétien soit appelé à participer à l'administration du pays.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) NERCES.

No. 712.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29.)

(No. 320.)
My Lord, *Pera, April* 17, 1879.

ON receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 461 of the 2nd instant, on the subject of the relative numbers of the several populations in the town and district of Janina, I addressed a telegram to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Larissa, requesting him to furnish me with information on this point.

I have the honour to forward copy of Mr. Blunt's reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 712.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Malet.

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, April* 17, 1879, 10 A.M.

ACCORDING to Turkish Returns, issued in 1877, the male population of Sandjak of Janina is composed of 18,014 Mussulmans, 84,499 Christians, and 1,515 Jews, total, 104,028 males; percentage of Christians about 81. Austrian Consul-General's Report, published about four years ago, estimates the town population at 6,000 Mahommedans, 10,000 Christians, and 4,000 Jews, total, 20,000 of both sexes.

No. 713.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29.)

(No. 322.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 17, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 292 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to inclose the translation of a document which has been communicated to me by the Porte, containing certain statements made by Kiamil Pasha with regard to Mr. Henderson's reports of his conduct.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 713.

Kiamil Pasha to the Sublime Porte.

(Traduction.)

LE Vali d'Alep informe la Sublime Porte à la date du 15 Rebi-ul-Ewel, 1296 (17 Mars, 1879), que par suite de la froideur qui existe entre le Consul d'Angleterre à Alep, Mr. Henderson, et le Consul-Général de Sa Majesté à Beyrouth, Mr. Eldridge, Mr. Henderson, dans la crainte que les relations amicales qui n'ont cessé d'exister entre le Consulat-Général de Beyrouth et le vilayet, n'empêchent le succès de sa mission, a donné tête baissée dans des intrigues qui subsistent du temps de son prédécesseur, et par des moyens peu convenables, il a de temps à autre fait preuve d'hostilité.

Le premier Secrétaire de l'Ambassade d'Angleterre à Constantinople, Mr. Malet, qui, il y a quelque temps, a visité ces parages, s'est rendu compte par lui-même de cet état de choses, et l'attitude de Mr. Henderson s'est, dans la suite, modifiée jusqu'à un certain point. Cependant il est retombé dans les mêmes erreurs, et ses relations avec le Gouvernement ne sont pas du tout sincères. Il a rédigé et transmis à l'Ambassade et à Londres des Rapports d'après les faux bruits inventés par les Arméniens au sujet des faits de Zeitoun. La ligne de conduite suivie par ce fonctionnaire tend, dit Kiamil Pacha, à rien moins qu'à favoriser les intérêts de l'ennemi commun à l'Angleterre et la Turquie.

No. 714.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 29.)

(No. 323.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 18, 1879.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 1059 of the 11th September last, I have the honour to inclose copy of a note from the Sublime Porte, stating that a further Circular has been addressed to the provincial authorities in Asiatic Turkey, enjoining them to prevent the return of Circassians to the European provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 714.

Circular.

A LA date du 8 Mars dernier (v. s.), la Sublime Porte a transmis une nouvelle Circulaire aux Gouverneurs-Généraux des vilayets de la Turquie d'Asie pour leur prescrire de veiller rigoureusement à ce qu'aucun Circassien ne soit autorisé à repasser dans les provinces de la Turquie d'Europe.

Le 15 *Avril*, 1879.

No. 715.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 29.)

(No. 324.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 18, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 309 of the 11th instant, informing your Lordship that I had proposed to the Porte to place itself absolutely in the hands of England with regard to the Greek question, in which case the towns of Janina and Larissa might be saved to Turkey, I have now the honour to inform your Lordship that, while thanking Her Majesty's Government for their friendly offer, the Porte refuses to take advantage of it.

The Grand Vizier observed to me, on the 14th instant, that if the Sultan put himself unreservedly into the hands of England he would be held by his people to have surrendered the territory which Turkey would ultimately lose, while, on the other hand, the advantage which would accrue to Turkey through the mediation of England, that is to say, the retention of the mere towns of Janina and Larissa, would be an empty gain unless the neighbouring territory in each case were also preserved, as the towns themselves would necessarily in a short time, by force of attraction, unite to Greece. Her Majesty's Government in its communication did not hold out hope that they could do more than save the towns.

The Grand Vizier added that His Majesty had felt deeply the friendly feeling which had prompted Her Majesty's Government to make the proposal, but he had informed his Highness, with much eloquence and emotion, that he could not of his own free will surrender provinces whose populations continued to beseech his protection. If the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin insisted by united mediation upon this cruel sacrifice, His Majesty's people would at least know that he was surrendering to a pressure which the Empire was powerless to resist.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs spoke to me on the same day in the same sense, and on the 16th instant his Excellency informed me that the final answer of the Porte was in accordance with the language which I have above recorded. He added that the Porte was unable to consent to an extension of the line of frontier which it had previously been prepared to cede to Greece, which did not include the Gulf of Prevesa.

I need hardly observe that on receiving these communications I made use of the obvious arguments against the course which the Porte has chosen to adopt, but their cold

common sense has been overridden by the fiery and reckless advice of ill-guided counsellors of His Majesty, who, in the Grand Council held at the Palace to deliberate on the British offer, dilated on the inability of a Caliph to alienate territory of his own free will, and assured His Majesty of the fidelity of his Mussulman subjects, and their desire to die rather than submit to the indignity of passing under Rayah domination.

It is my duty to add that what passed in this Council has not been communicated to me by any of His Majesty's Ministers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 716.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 29.)

(No. 325.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 18, 1879.*

COUNT ZICHY, the Austrian Ambassador, came to me on the 16th instant, and stated to me that the delay in the signature of the Convention between Austria-Hungaria and Turkey, now that all discussion was closed and the instrument had been accepted by both parties, after four months of protracted negotiations, during which every point had been discussed and rediscussed till nothing remained to be said, showed such a want of consideration towards the Emperor and a forgetfulness of the rules of international comity that his Excellency had no further means at his command to prolong the patience of his Sovereign and his Government. He should be obliged to quit Constantinople, and he should do so without making any further observation on the subject of the Convention, and without taking leave either of the Sultan or of His Imperial Majesty's Ministers.

His Excellency added that if, through me, the Porte became aware of his intention, he could not but hope that the inexplicable delay which was occurring might cease.

I sent Sir A. Sandison to the Palace with a written message, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, and which was conveyed to the Sultan through the Grand Chamberlain.

I myself went to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and delivered the same message to his Excellency, who told me that the Ministers had been summoned to an Extraordinary Council with reference to the Convention, and that they were engaged upon mere matters of formality, which would be brought to an end during the day, and he requested my good offices to prevent the Austrian Ambassador from taking the step which he appeared to meditate.

On the following morning (yesterday) I saw the Minister for Foreign Affairs again. He told me that the reluctance of the Sultan to authorize the signature of the Convention was great, but that the Grand Vizier and his Excellency had determined to retire if they did not obtain it, and that the Grand Vizier was at that moment at the Palace engaged in submitting the alternative to His Majesty.

On returning to the Embassy I was informed that an Aide-de-camp of the Sultan had been to request me to come as quickly as possible to the Palace.

On reaching the Palace I was shown into a room where were the Grand Vizier, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of War, and the Minister of Justice.

The Grand Vizier then said to me that he was commanded by the Sultan to inform me that His Majesty experienced great difficulty in permitting the signature of the Convention. Telegrams continued to arrive stating that the signature would be the signal for a revolt of the populations of the Province of Novi-Bazar, who were resolved to die sooner than permit the passage and residence of Austrian troops. When the Convention was signed it would be the duty of the Turkish troops to prevent rebellion, but that for His Majesty to give an order to his own troops to shoot down his own subjects was impossible, and that, moreover, such an order, even if it were given, would most certainly not be obeyed by the troops. Hence new complications would arise. The Porte would be accused of not fulfilling its obligations under the Convention, and instead of this instrument becoming a bond of union and goodwill between the two Empires, it would infallibly produce further estrangement which might lead to most serious consequences, even to war.

Under these circumstances, the Grand Vizier went on to say that His Majesty proposed to cede to Austria all the territory to the River Lim, to be held on the same conditions as she holds Bosnia and Herzegovina, provided she would renounce her right of

penetrating further into the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar. The Turkish garrisons would all be withdrawn from beyond the Lim, and the Austrian Administration would be identic up to that frontier.

His Highness concluded by saying that His Majesty requested me to use my good offices to induce Count Zichy to consider this solution, and his Highness asked me to telegraph it to your Lordship.

I replied that, from all the provinces which had been ceded, similar alarming and threatening telegrams had been sent by the Chiefs of the Mussulman population, who were naturally deeply interested in the matter, but I felt sure that when the populations knew that it was the will of the Sultan that they should accept the situation, as it was determined by the Convention, they would obey. This had happened in the cases of Podgoritza and the Lazes; the telegrams had been no less vigorous in their language, but the ultimate settlement had been perfectly peaceful. But, I said, supposing, for the sake of argument, that the threats in the telegrams prove true, still the Porte must be more able to cope with insurgents of its own race, whom there are a variety of means of subduing, than with the power of a mighty Empire like Austria; for I did not conceal from his Highness that if the Porte refused Austria's friendship it would incur her enmity. I said that the delays which had arisen in the negotiation of the Convention had arisen principally from the suspicions of the Porte that Austria intended to push on to Salonica. If the Porte refused to sign the Convention, in which the forward course of Austria was checked by Treaty, it not only left Austria unfettered, but it gave it a strong incentive to a policy which at present existed only in the imagination of the Porte. With regard to the present proposal to cede territory to the Lim, I pointed out that it was an infringement of the Treaty of Berlin, which was a most dangerous precedent to Turkey. I consented, however, to inform Count Zichy, but I requested that I might see the Sultan first, in order to expose to His Majesty the dangers which he was incurring.

The Ministers were presently summoned to the Sultan, and remained for upwards of half-an-hour. On returning the Grand Vizier informed me that His Majesty was too tired to see me, but that he requested me to say nothing to Count Zichy or to my Government as to the new proposal which had been mentioned to me. At the same time, His Majesty requested me to come to him on the following day at 3 o'clock.

I came back to town, and having telegraphed to your Lordship, I went to Count Zichy and informed him confidentially of what had passed. His Excellency said nothing would induce him to reopen negotiations.

About 7 o'clock the Minister for Foreign Affairs came to me and said that after reflection His Majesty did desire that I should make the proposal regarding the Lim to Count Zichy as soon as possible, and his Excellency said that he should return to the Palace and wait for the answer.

I remarked that I should have preferred receiving the request personally from His Majesty. It was no light thing for me to undertake to propose to the Austrian Ambassador to reopen negotiations after all that had passed, and I had intended to put as a condition to the Sultan that His Majesty would sign the Treaty as it stood if I failed in inducing Count Zichy to listen to the fresh offer.

The Minister said he could not of course go the length of accepting this condition, but he would inform His Majesty of what I had said, and he hoped I would not refuse my good offices, of which they had need.

I saw Count Zichy again later, when he put into my hands a paper, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, in which His Excellency states that he is not authorized to listen to a proposal of the nature made, and he insists upon the signature of the Treaty to-day.

I sent this paper at once to the Palace, with a line to the Minister to express a regret, which was unconnected with the political part of the question, at being unable to send a favourable reply from the Austrian Ambassador, and I concluded by saying that I should go to the Palace to-day at the hour fixed, unless I received a message telling me not to do so.

As up to this moment I have heard nothing from the Palace, I propose to go there in an hour's time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 716.

Message sent by Mr. Malet to His Majesty the Sultan.

L'AMBASSADEUR d'Autriche est venu chez moi ce matin à 9 heures pour me dire que le délai dans la signature de la Convention, après que toutes les discussions étaient closes et la Convention acceptée de part et d'autre par suite de quatre mois de négociations, montrait une telle manque d'égard envers son Souverain ainsi qu'un oubli si étrange de convenances entre deux Puissances, qu'il était à bout de ses ressources pour persuader son Empereur et son Gouvernement à la patience, et qu'il se verrait forcé de quitter Constantinople sans plus rien dire et sans prendre congé de Sa Majesté Impériale ni des Ministres.

J'aurais voulu avoir l'honneur de voir Sa Majesté Impérial pour un instant dans l'espoir de prévenir un si grand malheur qui ne peut être que la conséquence d'un malentendu.

Inclosure 2 in No. 716.

Memorandum by Count Zichy.

L'AMBASSADEUR d'Autriche-Hongrie n'est nullement autorisé à entendre une pareille proposition qui, d'après lui, est tout-à-fait inadmissible, est contraire au Traité de Berlin, et altérerait les droits acquis par l'Autriche-Hongrie à l'égard du district de Novi-Bazar. Il ne peut qu'exprimer son étonnement que la Sublime Porte tâche d'ajourner par des pareilles propositions la signature d'une Convention conclue définitivement avec les Ministres Ottomans, conformément aux instructions de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Il doit donc insister que cette Convention soit signée demain, et il décline formellement et au nom de son Gouvernement toute responsabilité pour tout retard ultérieur qu'il considérerait comme blessant pour la dignité de son Cabinet.

(Signé) ZICHY.

Péra, le 17 Avril, 1879.

No. 717.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29.)

(No. 326.) *Pera, April* 18, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a note from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, expressing the warm acknowledgments of the Imperial Government for the relief which continues to be afforded to the Turkish refugees from the Compassionate Fund.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 717.

Carathéodory Pasha to Mr. Malet.

Sublime Porte, le 17 Avril, 1879.

M. le Ministre,

LA Commission des Réfugiés de la Guerre signale à la Sublime Porte l'aide et l'assistance efficaces que l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique continue à porter aux malheureuses populations qui ont abandonné leurs foyers. Ainsi sous ses généreuses auspices une centaine de balles d'effets d'habillements vient d'être distribuées aux réfugiés du district de Malgara, et d'autres secours non moins considérables destinés aux districts d'Eskijo Caradja, Ali et Soultan Yui sont attendus incessamment dans ces localités.

Ces faits, ainsi que les secours en vivres que le Compassionate Fund distribue journellement aux émigrés nécessiteux de Constantinople, nous imposent le devoir d'exprimer une nouvelle fois tant au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté qu'aux généreux organisateurs du Comité sus indiqué les plus chaleureux remerciements de la Sublime Porte pour ces actes de bienfaisance et d'humanité.

(Signé) A. CARATHÉODORY.

No. 718.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 29.)

(No. 327.)

Constantinople, April 18, 1879.

My Lord,

IN accordance with instructions which I had the honour to receive from your Lordship by telegraph on the 11th instant, I urged the Grand Vizier to name Aleko Pasha as Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia at once. The request of Her Majesty's Government was acted upon with praiseworthy promptitude, and on the 14th instant I had the honour to inform your Lordship by telegraph that the Representatives of the Porte at the capitals of the Powers whose Plenipotentiaries had signed the Treaty of Berlin would be instructed on that day to request the Governments to which they were accredited to assent to the nomination of Aleko Pasha as Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 719.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 328.)

Constantinople, April 18, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch which I have received from Captain Gill relative to the proceedings of the Asiatic Frontier Delimitation Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure in No. 719.

Captain Gill, R.E., to Mr. Malet.

Pera, April 17, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have had the opportunity of looking over the maps on which the new frontier between Russia and Turkey from the Black Sea to Kara-Ougan—as agreed upon between the Russian and Turkish Commissioners—has been laid down.

As far as can be judged from the map (a Russian one), this frontier appears fairly in accordance with the Treaty of Berlin, and Chéhab Bey, the Turkish Commissioner, who is well acquainted with the ground, informs me that Russia has gained no material advantages beyond those ceded to her at the Congress of Berlin.

Discussion of the line from Kara-Ougan to the old Russian frontier awaits the arrival of Major Clarke, who is expected to-morrow.

Although General Stebnitzky is appointed Russian Commissioner for the Black Sea Kessadagh boundary only, he is, he informed me, armed with full powers for the discussion both of the Kessadagh Alashgerd line and of the Khotour boundary.

I would venture to point out that there is some advantage in the existing arrangements for the Russian and Turkish Commissions, by which they are divided, not at Kara-Ougan, where that portion of the frontier commences at the delimitation of which the English Representative has a recognized right to take a part, but at Mount Kessadagh; for thus a *locus standi* is given to the English Commissioner on the Black Sea Kessadagh frontier, by which he may be able to exercise some control over the delimitation between the Black Sea and Kara-Ougan, as well as between the latter place and Mount Kessadagh.

With regard to the Khotour boundary, a line was, as you are aware, agreed upon between Sir Arnold Kemball and his Russian colleague, during the existence of the last Commission. It is true that the Commissioners of the interested Powers declined to accept this line as a boundary, but a perusal of the protocols and other papers connected with the last Commission lead to the conclusion that it was mainly the action of the Turkish Representative that rendered the work of that Commission abortive.

Under these circumstances, it is to be hoped that no serious difference of opinion will arise between the Representatives of the mediatory Powers on the present Commission; and that the views of the Sublime Porte and those of the Delegates of the Shah of Persia may speedily be brought into accord.

General Stebnitzky, in a conversation with me, expressed his fears that the preliminary discussion of the Khotour question would occupy much valuable time; but as he was not aware that a boundary had been laid down both by Sir A. Kemball and by his Russian colleague on their working maps, and that these maps were in the British Embassy at Constantinople, I trust that General Stebnitzky may prove to be mistaken, and that there will not be a necessity for a great number of sittings at Constantinople for the consideration of the Khotour boundary, and that the departure of the Asiatic Commission will not be seriously delayed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM GILL, *Captain, R.E.*,
Assistant Commissioner for the Asiatic Boundary Commission.

No. 720.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 29.)

(No. 330.)

Constantinople, April 18, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of despatches upon matters of interest in their respective districts, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Salonica, Diarbekir, and Bourgas.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 720.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Malet.

Salonica, April 7, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency a matter which has excited some sensation here:—

Eight or ten Albanians from Debra entered a Christian village near Uscub and demanded a large sum of money. The villagers declared they had just paid in their taxes and had no money. The Albanians, seeing the villagers were armed, and disposed to defend themselves if attacked, left the village. At a short distance from the village they found three men working in the fields. They vented their rage at being foiled in their attempt at extortion by cutting off the heads of two of them and the ears and nose of the third, and told him to go into the village and tell his fellow-villagers what they had done. The villagers took the two heads and the mutilated man and went to the Mutessarif of Uscub to complain of the outrage.

A party of officers from Her Majesty's ships here, having gone up to Uscub by rail, learnt these particulars.

To-day we hear that this Mutessarif of Uscub has been dismissed by orders from the Porte, but it is not known whether the event I have just related had any share in his dismissal.

His Excellency Vice-Admiral Hornby left for the Piræus and Malta, in the "Alexandra," on Saturday the 5th instant, just after the arrival of Her Majesty's ship "Research" from the Piræus. The "Salamis" is expected back here to-night or to-morrow morning.

The Austrian ship of war "Albatross" came into port on the 5th instant, and it is reported that two more Austrian ships of war are on their way hither.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 720.

Major Trotter to Mr. Malet.

Diarbekir, March 30, 1879.

Sir,

IN my despatch No. 19 of the 10th March I referred prominently to a very bad appointment that had been made by the new Vali, viz., that of a certain Said Effendi to be Kaïmakam of Djejireh, a post which he had previously held, and from which he had been removed in Abdul Rahman's time by the unanimous vote of the Diarbekir Medjliss. I spoke on the subject to the Pasha, and he admitted that the man was ill-spoken of, but the Pasha did not believe the charges that had been made against him. However, he had personally warned him that if he heard any fresh charges against him he would at once turn him out. As the Pasha was evidently bent on confirming the appointment I did not make any further remonstrance, as, although the new Kaïmakam is notoriously corrupt, and a man of very bad moral character, yet he is a man of energy and activity, such as is very much wanted just at present in the Djejireh district.

Subsequent to my conversation with the Pasha telegrams were received here from Djejireh by the representatives of the Chaldeans and Syrians containing protests against the appointment. I was asked for advice in the matter, and I replied that, having already spoken to the Pasha on the subject, and having received certain explanations in the matter, I did not wish to raise the question again, but should there be any fresh complaints against their Kaïmakam I would represent them at Constantinople. I also advised the Syrian Representative to report the matter to his superiors at Constantinople.

I regret to say that Izzet Pasha has since made one or two equally objectionable appointments, in particular that of Arif Effendi, one of the most corrupt members of the Temiz-i-hukkuk, to be a member of the Court of Appeal. It is possible that the new Vali may be acting under the influence of vicious councillors, but it is strongly suspected here that the ancient régime of Ahmet Tewfik Pasha, the most corrupt of Valis, is about to recommence. I will not myself pass an opinion on the subject until I am more certainly informed. To judge by his conversation, his Excellency is upright. On a visit I paid to him yesterday, he said, in the presence of many witnesses, that he was telegraphing to the Porte asking for the formation of a Military Court to sit in judgment on the numerous Aghas and rebels now in custody here. He further stated that he had no

confidence whatever in any of the local Medjlisses, and wished to turn all the members thereof out of their places. I have so often reported to Her Majesty's Government that the Medjlisses in all parts of the country visited by me are universally known to be rotten and corrupt to the core, that it is not for me to gainsay the Pasha's statement. The worst part of the matter is, that if all these Courts were entirely renewed, the chances are that the new members would not be much better than the old. I can myself see no remedy for this but the establishment of a more healthy state of public opinion, and this can only be brought about by the introduction on a large scale of the European element, to form a nucleus to which all the more respectable people might attach themselves.

Hamid Agha, of Sert—famous for the part he took in the recent pillage of Dehe and surrounding villages—is now on his way to Diarbekir, in custody, together with some of his numerous relations. We have still here in prison twenty-six of the notables concerned in the late rebellion—one of whom, at least, is a Christian, from the Jacobite village of Azehh. His relations asked me to intercede for him, on the ground that he had been compelled by force to join the rebel Beys; but it appears that thirty men, all Christians from this village, joined the Beys, and that six of that number were killed in fighting against the Government troops and auxiliaries, so I do not see what good grounds I have for interfering in the matter. Every rebel might make the same excuse.

I have once or twice asked the Pasha what is going to be done with the prisoners now in custody, and he has always replied that the new Reform Commissioners will deal with them.

I beg to submit a few extracts from a letter recently received here, written by a Protestant member of the Diarbekir Medjliss, now on special deputation at Sert. He writes as follows:—

"I wish you could see with your own eyes the miserable condition of the people, more especially the Christians of the villages in Bohtan, Redwan, Karzan and Saswn;* their condition is worse than slavery; they have no security of either property, life, or family. It is urgently necessary to find some means either to better the condition of these Christians or to remove them from these places *en masse*. . . . Since the arrival of Abdul Rahman Pasha here, he has made Hamid Agha to pay back 60,000 poistres, two horses, and several mules to those from whom he took them by various illegal means. Besides the above-mentioned sum he paid back about 250,000 paistres privately; there are a great many claims yet against him, but the people have not courage to demand them, for they are afraid if it turn out (as is always the case) that he is acquitted he will do more harm to them than ever. Hamid Agha is now in prison, and the mischief that he has done it is impossible to calculate. The regular troops who attacked and plundered Dehe have gone to Mosul throwing all the blame and responsibility on the irregular troops, but the truth, as I heard it from a person who was sent to inquire into the case at Dehe, is this:—When the Colonel, Ibrahim Bey, with his troops was marching against Dehe, he gave orders to fire, and by so doing one man and two women were killed, and the poor people, finding the bullets were coming like rain upon them, left the village, on which the soldiers commenced all sorts of violence and plunder. They did the same thing to other villages, both Mahommedan and Christian. I hear the regular and irregular troops have plundered more or less about 100 villages, the irregular troops being under the command of Hamid Agha. There has even been found some property belonging to the villages of Hardah and Dehe in the house of the late Mutessarif (Vehbi Effendi). . . . Just now while I am writing, some people have come crying and telling me that Omal Agha, the son of Ismail Agha, of Schernack, carried off in the night by force an Armenian girl named Shahin. As the girl's father said, 'Because my daughter was nice looking a great many of Omal Agha's men came and attacked my house, and took her away, and immediately Omal Agha took her as his wife, saying that she had become Mahommedan.' Up to the present time the account of the plundered property at Dehe stands thus: 88,000 piastres taken by the regular troops, 125,000 piastres taken and divided between Hamid Agha and his men and the Mutessarif."

This letter, which may be looked on in the main as reliable, may now be compared with advantage with a despatch† written more than ten years ago by my predecessor, Mr. Taylor, who wrote concerning this same Hamid Agha: "He is the main instrument in fleecing and oppressing the people here. . . . He has eleven brothers and fifteen cousins, one worse than the other, all local Aghas, forming amongst themselves and retainers a band of plunderers, who, under the guise of Government officials or tax-gatherers, have during the last five years held the districts with the lives and property of the people inhabiting it in their hands. . . . The whole of the misery that for the last five years has prevailed so extensively there is traceable to that man and his people,

* All in the Sert Sandjak.

† January 16, 1868, to Mr. Elliot.

although his cunning and bribery have enabled him up to this time to preserve his position in the Council and influence with the Government and head-quarters. Moslems suffer equally with Christians; both parties detest him, as both have been crushed by his unbounded extortion and unbridled tyranny."

It now remains to be seen whether this monster, equally infamous ten years ago as he is at present, will escape the penalty due to his misdeeds, or whether more money judiciously spent will ensure his again returning to the scene of his former exploits.

The new Mutessarif of Sert, Saïd Pasha, has arrived at his post. He has, as I have reported in an earlier despatch, a good reputation for energy and probity, and we may fairly hope shortly to hear of a marked improvement in the status of the hitherto ill-governed and ill-treated inhabitants. I had occasion a few days ago to send him a telegram, begging his interference in a recent gross case of persecution on the part of the Jacobite inhabitants of the village of Aoudh towards a Protestant family, the only one in the village. These Protestants were cruelly beaten and then expelled the village. I received by telegram to-day a satisfactory reply from the Pasha, informing me that he had dispatched a special Commissioner to the spot to investigate the subject.

It will be in your Excellency's recollection that on the 12th February, the day I started on my recent tour, I sent a telegram stating—"Yesterday zaptiehs beat and severely wounded with sword unoffending Christian in the street." The injured individual died a few days ago, and I attach to this despatch a translation of a communication from the Armenian Bishop on the subject, *vide* Inclosure A, to which I would beg to draw your attention as another instance of the lawlessness of the local Aghas. The zaptieh who committed the crime is in custody, and I have instructed my dragoman to watch the case in court and give what help he can to the villagers of Hentze, who appear as plaintiffs in the case; also to keep me informed of the proceedings.

In my despatch of the 5th January to the Secretary of State, in describing the state of the Tchabakchoor district, which I passed through on my way from Erzeroum, I stated—"Yusuf Agha, the head of Tchevlik village, is especially badly spoken of. I am told that any fair Armenian woman is considered as a legitimate victim to his lust." I also described in detail the terrible sufferings of the inhabitants of the village of Madrak. I regret now to have to send a fresh proof that my statements were not exaggerated. The accompanying translation of a telegram from the Armenian Bishop to the Mutessarif of Kharpoot will explain:—

"*Diarbekir, $\frac{8}{20}$ March.*—Khazmo, the beautiful widow of Kewo-le-Reiss, of the village of Madrak, has been forcibly seized by Khalil the Kurd, servant of Yusuf Bey, the Lord of Tchabakchoor. She is imprisoned in the harem of Kako, in the village of Zeïde. They are trying to convert her to Islamism."

To this telegram the Governor of Kharpoot replied the same day:—

"The matter detailed in your telegram has been referred, with every urgency, to the Mutessarif of Arghanah and to the Kaïmakam of Palu."

In Diarbekir itself matters are quiet, principally owing to between thirty and forty members of the "Company of Burglars" being in custody on the recommendation of the Special Commission, whose appointment I have alluded to in an earlier despatch. What will ultimately become of these men it is hard to say; but as they have friends and, I believe, colleagues, amongst the members of the Medjlisses, I fear it is not likely that they will meet with their deserts.

There has been much agitation amongst the Armenians, owing to the quarrel between the Bishop and his Council having come to a head. The Bishop telegraphed his resignation to Constantinople, and there was much excitement in consequence. His resignation has not been accepted. Inclosure B is a translation of a telegram dispatched by a number of Armenian women of Diarbekir to the Patriarch. I have not interfered in the matter, as my advice has not been sought for, and I endeavour to keep clear of all religious quarrels.

There has also been considerable agitation amongst the Armenian Catholics on account of the withdrawal of M. Kupélian from Constantinople and the possible termination of the schism in their Church.

The news of the abolition of caïmé has been received here with general and apparently unmixed joy. There are no great losers here, as trade transactions in this vilayet are all in gold, silver, or metallic currency. Caïmé is only used in payment of taxes. In Erzeroum and Kharpoot it is different. At the former place most trade transactions were in caïmé, and it is probable there will be heavy losers by its sudden withdrawal.

An intelligent native of Malatia, recently arrived here on a visit, informs me that the country thereabouts is generally quiet. During the past summer and autumn cattle plague has committed terrible ravages there, and, according to my informant, there are hardly any

cattle left in the district. There was at the same period a severe outbreak of cattle plague in this vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 720.

Archbishop Philippe to Major Trotter.

(Traduction.)

Très-Excellent M. le Consul, *Le $\frac{4}{16}$ Mars*, 1879.

AU nom d'auguste Reine d'Angleterre, en me permettant de vous envoyer le résultat de tentative d'homicide de la part d'un gendarme sur la personne d'un Arménien dont on vous avait donné connaissance, je vous prie de le communiquer à qui le droit.

C'est un nouvel spécimen de souffrances que les Chrétiens endurent de la part des gardiens de l'ordre public; en vous le décrivant, je vous demande pardon d'être oiseux. Voici les enchaînements et les motifs de cette affaire:—

L'année dernière une cinquantaine d'Arméniens du Hentzé du Mudirlik Kolp, caza Ledjdjé, furent invités, d'après la coutume, par leurs tyrans (les Kurdes Tello, Mirzo, Khaled, &c.) à la corvée de récolter les trèfles. Elle devait s'accomplir suivant le rang des Begs; la récolte de Tello finie, les Chrétiens vont à la besogne de Mirzo. Comme ils étaient obligés, outre le travail gratis, d'emporter leurs provisions de nourritures, les paysans Krikor Guerdjikian et Arakel Nersissian, par manque de pain, faiblissent à leurs besognes.

Le factotum de Mirzo considérant cela acte de mauvais vouloir et d'insoumission, leur a fait subir une bastonnade impitoyable. Ces malheureux ainsi accablées de mortissures se rendent à Diarbékir. Ayant fait une pétition, le premier, sans en savoir le résultat, succombe à la suite de graves contusions.

Quant à Arakel Nersissian, redoutant par son retour au pays la vengeance de Mirzo, il s'adonne ici à un métier.

Comme le tyran, à la suite d'oppressions multiples, était mandé au vilayet, il y remarque la présence d'Arakel, le prend pour un de ses accusateurs et par les menaces d'un gendarme qu'il gagne a sa cause, veut le faire cesser de se plaindre. Le zaptié accoste Arakel, et dépassant les bornes de menace, s'emporte, lui assène des coups de crosse si forts, surtout aux articulations des jambes, qu'on traîne le malheureux à l'église, où, après un mois de souffrance, il est mort aujourd'hui.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) PHILIPPE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 720.

Protest of the Armenian Women of Diarbekir against the Dismissal of their Bishop.

(Télégraphique.)

VOUS ne devez pas avoir oubliés les vexations de toutes sortes pendant l'absence de notre Vicaire. Depuis nous respirons un petit peu, au lieu de nous consoler, nos conseillers anti-constitutionnels par des intrigues calomnieuses obligent notre vénérable Evêque de partir. Nous ne pouvons pas accepter sa démission et laisser libre champ à ces conseillers, ennemis des écoles et du peuple. Grâce à l'énergie de notre Pasteur à peine commencions nous de circuler librement sans crainte pour aller à l'église et au bain. Si nos époux se taisent, nous nous mettrons en campagne.

Nous vous prévenons. Ayez pitié de nous, et faites vite ce qui est conforme à nos vœux.

Inclosure 5 in No. 720.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Bourgas, April* 14, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that since the report has been spread of the possibility of a mixed occupation by European troops of Eastern Roumelia

the Bulgarians of this district have redoubled the activity of their warlike preparations, in the belief that such a force would serve as an escort to lead the Turkish troops towards the Balkans. Money is being openly collected for the purposes of the Revolutionary Committee, each caza or sub-district being assessed in a certain sum (3,000*l.* on an average), to which even foreign subjects are forced (as at Aidos) to contribute; in the villages the peasants now drill three or four times a-week, instead of, as till now, every Sunday only.

All this is done with the knowledge, but not by the direct orders, of the Russian officials, who content themselves with supplying arms to every Bulgarian who may choose to apply for them, and leaving full and entire liberty of action to Bulgarian employés, headmen, and other agitators.

I am informed that the "Gymnastic Club" of Slimnia now numbers 3,000 efficient members; that of Karnabad, 500; of Aidos, 450; of Yamboli, about 1,000; whilst in Bourgas there are 120. I do not think it would be an over-estimate to calculate three rifle volunteers for every two houses in each Bulgarian village throughout the district. I must, however, record my opinion that as every Bulgarian capable of learning the use of arms is, more or less, compelled to do so by the dread of rendering himself suspected of a lack of patriotism, the real number of combatants who would be found ready to take the field against the Turks falls infinitely short of that which has received Russian rifles and has attended drill.

From the districts of Slimnia and Karnabad I hear that numbers of the Mussulman villagers are leaving by land for Southern Roumelia; from the former town notice was officially sent to the Turkish villages that all those who wished to quit Eastern Roumelia would be furnished, gratis, with the means of transport and an escort to the frontier; the zaptiehs who conveyed this announcement amplified it into an order that all Mussulmans must leave the country unless they chose to contribute soldiers to the Bulgarian Drouzzina (when they must wear the Bulgarian cap with the triple cross on it), and to force their women to abandon their veils ("yashmak") and to adopt Bulgarian female costume.

This morning, during the temporary absence of the Prefect ("Naczalnik") and Sub-Prefect, a number of printed revolutionary placards were posted on the walls, calling on the Bulgarians to rise in arms and throw off the Turkish yoke reimposed on them by Europe, &c.

The placards were, after the return of the Prefect, torn down by his order, and several arrests were made of persons suspected of having posted them on the walls.

I have secured a copy of this incendiary Proclamation, which I will forward as soon as I can get it translated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CH. BROPHY.

No. 721.

Major-General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29.)

(No. 8.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 17, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to subjoin the substance of my telegrams No. 2 of the 13th instant and No. 3 of the 15th instant, viz.:—

(No. 2.)

"*Constantinople, April* 13.

"Captain Everett arrived on the 11th. Captain Jones, with Lieutenant Hare and Dr. Exham, on the 12th.

"I understand that Captain Elles has been ordered to join me next week.

"My party will be then complete, but I can commence without him."

(No. 3.)

"*Constantinople, April* 15.

"The six Commissioners now present in Constantinople met to-day.

"In the absence of the Italian Commissioner, the meeting was adjourned until the 18th April, when the Italian Commissioner will be present."

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 721*.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29.)

(No. 60. Political.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 14, 1879.

REVIEWING the proceedings of the Bulgarian Assembly at Tirnovo up to the present date two tendencies manifested by them seem to me worthy of especial note, and, as such, I have the honour to report them.

The first tendency is the Republican or Democratic, which is, if I mistake not, even stronger outside the Assembly than within. To this tendency are due the following measures: The reduction, 40 per cent., of the princely civil list; the prohibition of national donations to his future Highness; the further prohibition of titles, orders, and decorations within the Principality; the elimination of all Government nominees or Members *de jure* from the National Assembly; the rejection of a Senate in any form; the abolition of all privileges and distinctions, with other minor matters, noted by me in previous despatches.

The second tendency is the anti-Russian. This has been manifested, firstly, by the very measures above enumerated, most of them highly distasteful to the Russians and intended to be so; secondly, by the contemptuous rejection of the Report drawn up by the Committee of Fifteen, a Report under especial Russian patronage, and rejected chiefly because such; thirdly, by the boldness with which the Assembly has at last broken through all the Russian-woven cobwebs of delay, and hastened on its task, in the intent of thus cutting the ground from under any scheme for the prolongation of the Provisional Government.

These tendencies, especially the latter, I have, I must admit, fostered and brought into effect with entire success. In doing so, I have repeatedly sought the co-operation of my Austrian colleague and the other Delegates, but have been, with hardly any exception, met by an assertion on their side that they took no part in the working of the Assembly, nor had any intercourse with its Members or influence on them—a declaration consonant with their own modesty, but not perhaps in strict accordance with fact.

I have the honour to add that both the tendencies above noted appear to be likely to intensify themselves rather than otherwise in lapse of time; though internal causes may very possibly counteract the first, and external ones the second. Otherwise, they will probably be alike durable and effectual.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 722.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29.)

(No. 30.)

My Lord, *Pera, April* 18, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that only an unofficial meeting of the Commission for the delimitation of the southern frontier of Eastern Roumelia could be held on the 15th instant, the Austrian Delegate not being present.

He is expected to arrive at Constantinople to-day.

From the discussion that took place, I do not anticipate that the Commission will meet with any difficulties in continuing its labours.

Subject to the arrival of the Austrian Delegate, the first official meeting will be held on Monday, the 21st instant, and the probable date of departure from Constantinople for Bourgas will be the following Monday, the 28th instant—boats for that port leaving only once a week.

Each Commissioner will advise the Ambassador of his Government of the date fixed for leaving Constantinople, in order that arrangements may be made by the proper authorities to furnish an escort, should one be considered requisite.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. GORDON, *Major*, 93*rd Highlanders.*

No. 723.

Captain Sale, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29.)

My Lord, *Vienna, April* 20, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report my arrival in Vienna, the receipt of instructions from Her Majesty's Ambassador at the capital, and my proposed departure to-morrow for Cettinjé viâ Trieste and Cattaro.

I have also to acknowledge the receipt of letters Nos. 1 and 6, the latter with inclosures.

A copy of my Commission has been received,* but not the Commission itself. I forward, for your Lordship's information, a set of a recent (17th August, 1878) edition of the Austrian Staff Map of Montenegro and the country around.

This map shows the new boundary, and, when compared with the one exhibited at the Berlin Congress, appears to embody more recent topographical information, and corrects the latter map in several places, especially at and near the new frontier.

I send this map in case copies should not exist in the Foreign Offices, and as it is possible that questions might arise concerning places mentioned in this map, but not in that alluded to in the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.,*
Her Majesty's Commissioner.

No. 724.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29.)

(No. 242.)

My Lord, *Vienna, April* 21, 1879.

CAPTAIN SALE, Her Majesty's Montenegro Boundary Commissioner, who had been waiting here some days in the expectation of receiving his Commission, resolved to proceed this morning without it to Cettinjé, where the Commission was to meet on the 25th instant.

He has with him a copy of his Commission, and after pointing out to me that in it, and in his instructions, there is no mention of a Montenegrin Commissioner, but only of those of the Treaty Powers, he asked whether I considered he would be justified in recognizing one.

I said that, judging by what had been done on the Servian Boundary Commission, I had no doubt whatever that he should do so unless he received instructions to the contrary effect from your Lordship, to whom I would communicate his hesitation.

* Given to Lieutenant Caillard to take out, who started for Vienna April 30.

He also inquired whether I considered that the reference in his Commission to the XIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin was to be regarded as an authorization to enter into a discussion on the different points mentioned in it as well as the line of frontier.

I said that I understood that the Commission, which was not provided for under the Treaty, had been agreed upon solely for the purpose of facilitating the fixing of the frontier, upon which the parties interested might have a difficulty in coming to an understanding if left to themselves, and that it should confine itself exclusively to that duty, every other question being beyond its attributions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 725.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 29.)

(No. 244.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 21, 1879.*

I, THIS morning, communicated to Baron Orczy your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, proposing that the Bulgarian Boundary Commission should commence its work at the west, requesting him to ascertain whether it met with Count Andrassy's concurrence.

His Excellency promised to lose no time in doing so, and mentioned that the Russian Government had thrown out the suggestion that an arrangement should be come to by which they should furnish an escort to the Commission till its work was done, but Count Andrassy was not at all disposed to entertain it, as he considers that the work of the Commission has, and should have, no connection with the occupation, and that the evacuation must not be made in any way dependent upon it.

This opinion, of course, applied only to the suggestion of the Russians to furnish an escort till the completion of the work, which they would probably contrive to prolong if it was agreed to, and had no reference to what was said in your Lordship's telegram.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 726.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 29.)

(No. 246.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 22, 1879.*

THE anxiety of the Russian Government to see Aleko Pasha appointed Governor-General of East Roumelia had already been brought to my notice when I received your Lordship's telegram No. 21, and it was suspected that the reason of this anxiety might be the desire to have his nephew elected Prince of Bulgaria.

On inquiring, however, yesterday at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs as to whether there was any real ground for such a suspicion, Baron Orczy thought it more probable that the appointment of Aleko Pasha had been patronized by Russia on account of his not being likely to prove either an efficient or a strong Governor.

Baron Orczy could not say who was likely to be elected Prince of Bulgaria, but he had no doubt that the choice entirely rested with Prince Doudoukoff, the present Governor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 727.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 29.)

(No. 249.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 22, 1879.*

YOUR Lordship will have been informed by Mr. Gould of the inroad of the Albanians into the territory annexed to Servia by the Treaty of Berlin.

When the news was first received it was supposed to be one of the ordinary border raids and no great importance was attached to it, but according to the last accounts that

have reached the Austrian Government a strong body of invaders advanced as far as Kurshumljé, which they at once seized and proceeded to fortify, and which they still hold.

Previous to its annexation to Servia the inhabitants of that part of the district were mostly Albanians, who, smarting under their expulsion from their homes, can count upon the sympathy of their countrymen in any attempt to recover them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 728.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 29.)

(No. 252.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 25, 1879.*

SINCE Count Andrassy's return from Hungary it has not only been impossible to have any conversation with him, but would have been useless to attempt it, as the Under-Secretaries admit him to have been so exclusively engrossed by internal affairs and daily Ministerial Councils, lasting many hours, as to have been unable to give any attention to questions of foreign policy.

I contrived, however, to tell him the answer your Lordship had returned to the proposal made by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, that the work of the Bulgarian Frontier Delimitation Commission should be pushed forward so as to be completed by the 13th July, and he expressed his entire concurrence with it.

He was, he said, extremely anxious that the work of the Commission should be accelerated as much as possible, but if it was not concluded by the date named, it must not be left undone; and he added with considerable energy that the Russian evacuation must not be retarded, either for the purpose of furnishing an escort to the Commission, nor upon any other pretext whatever.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 729.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 29.)

(No. 254. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 25, 1879.*

WHEN I learnt a few days ago that Aleko Pasha was to pass by Vienna on his way to Constantinople from Paris, I attributed his taking this route to a wish to see Count Andrassy; but I learn that he arrived here this morning, and says that he would rather avoid his Excellency. Almost immediately upon arriving, he went to the room of an old acquaintance who was staying at the same hotel, and had with him a conversation, of which I have sent your Lordship a summary by telegraph.

Your Lordship may accept without the slightest reserve the account that he gave of it, in strict confidence, almost immediately after it was held.

The Pasha began by saying that, since the peace, there was only one Power that had behaved tolerably well to Turkey, and that was Russia.

The Treaty of San Stefano was not half so injurious to Turkey as that which the Powers had insisted upon substituting for it at Berlin, for the division of Bulgaria into two parts was an absurdity and an impossibility.

England, by a Convention which the "tas d'imbéciles" in power at Constantinople had enabled her to conclude, had taken possession of Cyprus; while Austria had carried out her long-cherished designs upon Bosnia, with the evident intention of pushing on to Salonica, which, however, Russia would not tolerate, and a war between the two Powers was consequently to be anticipated.

In reply to a question whether he was to be elected Prince of Bulgaria, Aleko Pasha simply answered "Cela se pourrait," without, however, rejecting the possibility of it; and the whole conversation convinced my informant, who had no previous distrust of or prejudice against him, that his whole sympathies are Russian, and that he is likely to prove a facile Russian instrument.

Although my informant considers the Pasha's expression of his opinions as very

confidentially given to him, some suspicion may nevertheless be allowable that, if he cherishes any hope of being elected in Bulgaria, he may not be unwilling that it should be known that he sympathizes in the feeling entertained there against the separation of East Roumelia; that he thinks it cannot be maintained; that he blames the Powers by which it was brought about, and pins his faith in Russia, by whom the arrangement was resisted.

If another Prince is elected, his own interest as Governor of East Roumelia may make him more desirous of upholding the interests of his Government and the arrangements of the Treaty than might be expected from his present language.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 730.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 29.)

(No. 256.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 26, 1879.*

THE reports received by the Austrian Government lead them to hope that the efforts which have been made for preparing an extensive insurrectionary movement in Macedonia and South Roumelia have been so far from successful as to render any serious movement impossible.

The Imperial Consular Agents have been instructed not to interpose in favour of or afford the slightest protection to any of the Austro-Hungarian subjects who have been taking part in getting up the agitation, and those persons have been made aware that they will be left to be dealt with as the Turkish authorities may think fit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 731.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 29.)

(No. 258. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 26, 1879.*

ALTHOUGH Count Schouvaloff appears to have assured Lord Dufferin that he was not coming to Vienna with any special mission, he told me that his object was to obtain the concurrence of Count Andrassy in some of the details to be arranged respecting the measures to be adopted in East Roumelia.

He had tried to keep General Langenau *au courant* of what was passing between Petersburgh and London, but it might be convenient for him to explain it personally to Count Andrassy.

The proposed prolongation and extension of the powers of the European Commission was, he hoped, pretty nearly arranged, for it was altogether incorrect to suppose, as was asserted, that his Government had ever made the slightest difficulty about consenting to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government, that the Commission should decide by a majority on the question of calling in Turkish troops for the maintenance of tranquillity.

I mentioned this statement to Baron Orczy, but I said I had no means of knowing whether it was strictly accurate.

Count Schouvaloff has an appointment to-day with Count Andrassy, with whom he has hitherto had no conversation beyond a few words exchanged at the opera.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 732.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 29.)

(No. 259. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 26, 1879.*

I HAVE just had a conversation with Aleko Pasha, who did not betray any of those Russian tendencies mentioned in my despatch No. 254, though I do not entertain a doubt

of his having held the language therein reported, except in decidedly deprecating the introduction of any Turkish troops within the frontiers of East Roumelia, whether on the line of the Balkans, at Ichtiman, or at Bourgas.

I told him that, as far as the Balkan frontier was concerned, Her Majesty's Government believed that the Porte, without any renunciation of its rights to have its garrisons, as provided for by the Treaty, might do well to delay sending them there, but that the occupation of Bourgas, when evacuated by the Russians, appeared to me to be a measure that could not be dispensed with.

He seemed disconcerted by this observation.

He said he was glad to find that there was a probability of the European Commission continuing at Philippopolis, with attributions relieving the Governor-General of a portion of his responsibilities, especially as regarded the calling in of Turkish troops to maintain tranquillity in the province, and he recognized the propriety of the Commission deciding by a majority upon its necessity.

Speaking of the state of affairs at Constantinople, he commented upon the character of the Sultan in terms the very reverse of respectful towards the Sovereign, who had just called him to occupy a high position; and he reflected upon the action of Her Majesty's Ambassador in a manner that was as uncalled for as it was unjust.

The Sultan was, he said, the falsest of mortals. Animated by fear, or some unworthy motives, he banished all the best men from the capital, but he sent for Sir Henry Layard to the Palace, and Her Majesty's Ambassador allowed himself to be cajoled by his flatteries, and permitted all these things to take place without exerting his authority to prevent them.

I answered, with some warmth, that the accusation was without justification; that I had cognizance of many of the conversations of Sir Henry Layard with the Sultan, and could answer for the openness with which he had expressed himself, and had endeavoured to dissuade His Majesty from the adoption of objectionable measures.

I alluded to the Sultan's suspicion of the designs of Austria, knowing that he himself fully shared them, and said that he would be doing good service by endeavouring to dissipate them, there being, in my opinion, no ground for the belief that an extension to Salonica was aimed at.

He did not appear to share my confidence, and asked upon what I grounded it.

I said, by the consequences which Austria would entail upon herself by attempting an annexation, which would almost infallibly cause a rupture both with Italy and Russia, and which would, moreover, produce a disturbance in the heterogenous elements of which this Monarchy is composed, such as no Minister would willingly provoke.

I spoke of the Organic Statute for Bulgaria, which the European Commission had just completed, and said that Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, who had taken a leading part in its preparation, had been animated by the wish to endow the population with institutions which would so effectually protect them from all oppression, and ensure to them a good administration, as to convince them that, looking to their own material interests, they would lose rather than gain by effecting a union with Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 733.

MM. Gueshoff and Yuncoloff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 29.)

My Lord, *Charing Cross Hotel, London, April 28, 1879.*

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the letter Mr. Philip Currie has addressed us, at your Lordship's desire, with respect to the interview we had requested you to grant us.

Mr. Philip Currie kindly informs us that the Constitution of Eastern Roumelia having been finally passed by the International Commission, Her Majesty's Government have no further right to interfere in the internal affairs of the province.

We beg most respectfully to point out to your Lordship that, according to the new arrangements, the European Cabinets will continue to interfere in the internal affairs of our province for some time longer, through an international body, and under conditions which can scarcely be said to be in strict accordance with the Treaty of Berlin. This circumstance, we thought, gave us a right to seek an interview with your Lordship, in order to lay before you the real dangers which threaten the security of our population and the peace of the East. We now have the honour to enclose a written statement, a

duplicate of which we have already placed in M. Waddington's hands, and to which we beg particularly to draw your Lordship's attention.

We have, &c.

(Signed) J. EUSTRATIEFF GUESHOFF.
Dr. G. D. YANCOLOFF.

Inclosure in No. 733.

Memorandum.

A M. le Marquis de Salisbury, K.G., Ministre des Affaires Étrangères.

M. le Ministre,

LA malheureuse population de la Roumélie Orientale, se trouvant sur le point d'être privée de la sécurité dont elle jouit à présent, et voyant l'approche d'une époque de nouvelles souffrances pour elle, prend la liberté d'élever la voix pour faire appel à la haute sagesse et aux sentiments d'humanité des Cabinets Européens. Elle nous a envoyés pour exposer à votre Excellence les vives appréhensions qui l'agitent, et les graves dangers qui menacent la tranquillité de sa province et la paix de l'Europe.

Les Bulgares de la Roumélie Orientale n'ignorent pas que c'est précisément pour assurer cette paix que le Congrès de Berlin a cru nécessaire de les séparer de leurs frères du nord. Ils apprécient d'autant plus cette sollicitude de l'Europe pour la paix que leur propre intérêt se trouve engagé dans la pacification de la péninsule Balkanique. Peuple essentiellement travailleur, les Bulgares espéraient la paix de l'Orient posée sur des bases telles qu'ils pussent s'adonner, sans crainte ni péril, au rétablissement de leur condition matérielle, si fortement ébranlée par la guerre, et à leur relèvement intellectuel et moral. Ils voient à présent avec une indicible douleur que cette paix, loin d'être assurée, n'a jamais été plus précaire.

Ils habitent une province qui, ayant le plus souffert, avait le plus de droits à la liberté. En 1876 elle fut le théâtre de ces scènes affreuses qui émurent toute l'Europe. En 1877, pendant la guerre, les troupes Ottomanes, la croyant perdue pour elles, ne la quittèrent qu'après l'avoir dévastée. Des milliers d'hommes, femmes, et enfants, furent massacrés ou soumis à des outrages sans nom; des villes, des villages subirent par centaines le sort de Batak, et ceux qui, par hasard, échappèrent à la destruction, furent complétement saccagés. Tous les habitants Chrétiens ont été plus ou moins atteints; mais les Bulgares, plus particulièrement et totalement ruinés, se trouve précisément dans ces endroits où, d'après les stipulations du Traité de Berlin, les garnisons Turques doivent être placées. Or, ces hommes, qui portent encore le deuil et la rage dans l'âme, seront-ils en état de se contenir quand ils se verront de nouveau en présence de ceux qui ont promené le fer et le feu, le meurtre et la honte, dans leurs villes et villages? Les émigrés Musulmans qui reviendront appauvris par la fuite et fanatisés par la haine, et les soldats Ottomans eux-mêmes, dont la solde n'a pas été payée depuis des mois, ne fourniront-ils pas, d'ailleurs, assez d'occasions pour des conflits sanglants? Les troubles une fois éclatés, la Porte se prévaudra du droit, que lui donne le Traité de Berlin, de faire entrer ses troupes; la lutte recommencera plus terrible que jamais, les horreurs de 1876 et 1877 se renouvelleront, et la tranquillité de l'Orient et la paix de l'Europe seront gravement compromises.

Ces dangers sont si évidents que les Cabinets Européens, dans leur haute sollicitude pour la sécurité de ces populations, si durement éprouvées, et pour l'intérêt de la paix Européene, ont cru nécessaire de rechercher un arrangement qui pût conjurer ce double péril.

Mais tout arrangement qui ne prendrait pas en considération les vœux légitimes des habitants de cette province ne serait qu'une solution artificielle.

Ces vœux sont déjà connus à votre Excellence par le Mémoire que les Bulgares de notre province ont présenté à la Commission Européenne de la Roumélie Orientale. La population de cette province, dont les souffrances ont amené la convocation de la Conférence de Constantinople, dont les malheurs ont été la cause de la délivrance de bien d'autres populations de l'Orient, ne saurait se résigner à la situation qui lui est faite par le Traité de Berlin. Séparée de ses frères de la Principauté, elle a été condamnée à recevoir dans son sein ce qu'elle n'a jamais eu pendant les longs siècles de son esclavage: des garnisons Turques. Libre aujourd'hui, elle se verra sous peu imposer une constitution à l'élaboration de laquelle elle n'a pas été appelée à prendre la moindre part, et à la modification de laquelle il lui sera à jamais interdit de prétendre.

Suivant cette constitution, l'Assemblée de la province, loin d'être librement élue par

la population, comme cela était indiqué dans les bases posées par le Traité de Berlin, contiendra un grand nombre de membres de droit et de membres nommés par le Gouverneur-Général. En conséquence de cette composition, l'Assemblée de la province ne pourra jamais mettre en accusation le Gouverneur-Général, tandis que la Porte sera toujours à même de renvoyer un Gouverneur-Général trop indépendant devant une Cour qui sera composée de six membres nommés par elle et de cinq nommés par l'Assemblée. Avec une Assemblée Provinciale ainsi composée, et un Gouverneur-Général aussi dépendant, aucune autonomie sérieuse ne peut exister. A la moindre émeute excitée par ces foyers de troubles qu'on appellera "les garnisons," le Gouverneur-Général sera portée à obéir aux ordres qu'il aura reçus de faire occuper la province par les troupes Ottomanes. Et cette occupation une fois consommée, qui nous garantira les droits et priviléges, la vie, et l'honneur? Le Congrès n'a-t-il pas refusé de garantir l'exécution du Traité de Berlin?

Ce sont surtout ces conditions et ces dangers qui, en menaçant notre existence, engageront notre population à rechercher, même au péril de sa vie, son salut dans l'union avec la Principauté. Cette union du reste est l'unique moyen de rétablir d'une manière durable la tranquillité de notre pays. Elle serait une œuvre digne des Cabinets qui ont pris part à la Conférence de Constantinople; elle serait digne, surtout, de ces hommes d'État éminents qui ont décidé de réparer la funeste erreur commise lors de la constitution du Royaume de Grèce.

Les Bulgares de la Roumélie Orientale ne cesseront de revendiquer cette union, surtout s'il reste de l'ancien régime un vestige quelconque pour rappeler les désastres inouïs qu'il leur a fait subir. Toute force Turque entrant dans leur pays pour aller occuper les Balkans ou quelque autre point de la province, ne manquerait pas d'exciter les plus vives inquiétudes en leur représentant le passé, et de provoquer des luttes sanglantes. Un Gouverneur-Général et des officiers supérieurs nommés par la Porte, parmi les hommes dévoués à ses intérêts, seraient loin d'offrir les garanties qui puissent les faire accepter à la population.

Le droit de ce Gouverneur-Général de faire entrer les troupes Ottomanes exaspère la population, qui préfère mourir plutôt que de voir son sol foulé par les soldats de l'ancien régime. Et comme les Bulgares sont sûrs que l'Europe, tout en les séparant de leurs compatriotes du nord, n'a pas voulu les vouer aux horreurs d'un régime condamné, ils espèrent que les Cabinets des Grandes Puissances voudront bien prêter leur sérieuse attention aux appréhensions que nous venons d'exposer et ne se résoudront jamais à leur imposer des conditions d'existence équivalent, pour tout un peuple malheureux, à un arrêt de mort.

Londres, le 28 *Avril*, 1879.

(Signé) J. EUSTRATIEFF GUESHOFF.
Dr. G. D. YANCOLOFF.

No. 734.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tirnova, April* 28, 1879.

ORGANIC Law finished and signed. Assembly closed by Russian Commissary; nothing remarkable in his speech. Protocol of dissolution of the Assembly signed by all the Delegates. Ottoman Commissioner alone did not sign. Assembly for the election of Prince will be opened to-morrow. Election will be probably completed in second sitting, perhaps even in the first. Russian candidate seems to be abandoned.

No. 735.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tirnova, April* 29, 1879.

TO-DAY Elective Assembly opened. Prince Alexander Battenberg chosen by acclamation. General satisfaction.

No. 736.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29.)

(No. 379. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 29, 1879.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs said to me yesterday that when he receives the news from Vienna that, in compliance with wish of the Sultan, the Secret Article is cancelled, he intends, in conveying it to His Majesty, to accompany it with his own resignation. He begged me to keep the matter a secret between himself and me, as the Grand Vizier would oppose his design very strongly if aware of it.

No. 737.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29.)

(No. 381.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 29, 1879.

RUSSIAN Ambassador communicated yesterday evening to the Porte the notes relating to Eastern Roumelia, exchanged between British and Russian Governments, which I communicated to the Porte on the 26th instant.

No. 738.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29.)

(No. 382.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 29, 1879.

ZUHDI EFFENDI has replaced Kiani Pasha as Minister of Finance.

No. 739.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29.)

(No. 383.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 29, 1879.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs has asked me to request, on behalf of the Porte, your Lordship's good offices in enabling it to recover debt due to it from the European Commission of the Danube.

No. 740.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29.)

(No. 384.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 29, 1879.

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Consul Brophy, dated yesterday:—

"Veuillez informer télégraphiquement si ordre tout nouveau existe pour enrôlement Grecs, Turcs, Arméniens, Juifs dans milice Rouméliote. Ici on enrôle."

No. 741.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29.)

(No. 161.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 29, 1879.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 11. I fear the arrival of a fresh Panslavist General will do little good, unless a check is placed on action of those already in the province, who are exciting, arming, and reviewing the population. Bulgarians at Robert College and employed here are leaving to take arms.

No. 742.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29.)

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 29, 1879.

AT yesterday's meeting Russian Commissioner held out against all the rest, desiring to restrict defence, and claiming right to withhold his assent from vote of majority on points which he may deem of sufficient importance. Austrian thinks it useless to proceed to frontier till rules for absolute decision are established, such as vote of majority. I propose to proceed to frontier, and take vote of majority on disputed points, completing work as if all were unanimous, and leaving dissentient Powers to object. Surveying party left this morning for Samakow frontier.

No. 743.

Major Clarke to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29.)

(Telegraphic.) , *April* 29, 1879.

AS the point west of Karaourgan fixed by the Russian and Turk does not differ from the point which I was prepared to accept, and as the question of principle will be met by the erasure of the frontier traced beyond that point, I propose, rather than create unnecessary difficulty by holding out with regard to our rights to fix the said point, taking part in the next meeting, providing that subsequently tracing be erased.

Carathéodory informed me yesterday that he had adopted my views with regard to project of frontier in a Memorandum to the Seraskier.

No. 744.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29.)

(No. 47.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, April* 29, 1879.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs has just sent to ask me what answer Her Majesty's Government intend making to French proposal for mediation of Ambassadors at Constantinople on Greek Frontier question.

The French Ambassador is very pressing for reply of the Italian Government, who wish to know the opinion of Her Majesty's Government before giving theirs, and they would be much obliged, therefore, by a prompt reply. They hear that Germany and Russia have accepted.

With reference to your telegram No. 14 of yesterday, Italian Government consider it as a matter of course that the Commissioners should accompany Aleko.

No. 745.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29, 3·30 P.M.)

(No. 73.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 29, 1879, 12·15 P.M.

TURKISH Chargé d'Affaires has been instructed to desire Aleko Pasha, who has been here four days, to proceed at once to Constantinople. He will leave on Thursday.

No. 746.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29, 4 P.M.)

(No. 74.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 29, 1879, 2·45 P.M.

I LEARN from Count Schouvaloff that his main object is to make an arrangement under which no Turkish troops should occupy either Bourgas or any part of Roumelian frontier till after the Russian evacuation is complete and the whole force withdrawn.

I said that if the Russians withdrew and put Bourgas into the hands of newly-created Roumelian army or militia, the latter would certainly resist entrance of the Turks when time for it came.

He said that he fully admitted this, but that a conflict was inevitable as soon as the Turks appeared on frontier, and all he cared for was that it should not take place till after the Russians were out of the country.

I pointed out that at Adrianople and other places where Turks entered as the Russians retired, no conflict or disorder had taken place.

He replied that Count Andrassy had used same argument, but he had answered it by showing the difference in the conditions of the two districts.

The calculation seems to be that if Bourgas and other frontier points are now made over to the militia, their ultimate occupation by the Turks is likely to be abandoned as entailing too serious a conflict.

No. 747.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Clarke.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 29, 1879, 5·45 P.M.

YOUR proposed course as regards point west of Kurnourgan is approved.

No. 748.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 40.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 29, 1879, 5·30 P.M.

YOURS No. 384 is very puzzling. Who is enrolling?

No. 749.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 29, 1879, 6 P.M.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 10, Commercial, of the 30th ultimo, you may reply to Minister for Foreign Affairs' note of the 26th March respecting Kustendje Railway by one embodying the views of Her Majesty's Government, as explained in my despatch No. 13, Commercial, of the 10th instant, and concluding, as suggested in your telegram of the 22nd, by stating that you are instructed to redeliver the award to the Porte in the hope that, on further consideration, they will admit the justice of the conclusions arrived at by Her Majesty's Government, and give the Railway Company the satisfaction to which they are clearly entitled, without prejudice to the claim of the Porte against Roumania.

No. 750.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 42.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 29, 1879, 6·15 P.M.

YOU may inform Minister for Foreign Affairs of substance of my instruction to Colonel Siborne, inclosed in my despatch to you No. 425 of the 27th March, authorizing him to support plan for repayment of debt due to Porte by Danube Commission.

No. 751.

The Marquis of Salisbury to General Hamley.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 29, 1879, 6·15 P.M.

YOURS No. 7. Your proposal to proceed by vote of majority, leaving dissentient Powers to object, is approved.

No. 752.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 29, 1879.

THERE is no foundation whatever for Count Schouvaloff's statement. Lord Dufferin and I have never held any other language than that all Russian troops must be out by the date fixed for the evacuation.

No. 753.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 33.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 29, 1879.

NO definite agreement has been come to about the control of the Commission over the summoning of Turkish troops. We have always expressed our willingness that the consent of majority of Commission should be required, and the Turks have generally expressed willingness that all the Governor's action at first should be subject to the supervision of the Commission. But the matter has gone no further.

No. 754.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 281.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 29, 1879.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 28th instant, in which you report that Count Schouvaloff has informed Count Andrassy that Her Majesty's Government have no objection to allow a corps of Russian troops to remain at Philippopolis as a support to the Governor of Eastern Roumelia, I have to state to your Excellency that Count Schouvaloff's statement is totally unfounded. Lord Dufferin and I have never held any other language than that all the Russian troops must have completed the evacuation of Eastern Roumelia by the date fixed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 755.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 283.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 29, 1879.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that no definite agreement has been come to about the control of the Commission over the summoning of Turkish troops. Her Majesty's Government have always expressed their willingness that the consent of the majority of the Commission should be required, and the Turkish Government have generally expressed a readiness that all the actions of the Governor of Eastern Roumelia should at first be subject to the supervision of the Commission, but the matter rests there.

I am, &c.
(Signed SALISBURY.

No. 756.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 284.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 29, 1879.*

THE Austrian Ambassador told me yesterday that he had not yet received any intelligence with respect to any conversation between Count Schouvaloff and Count Andrassy. His Excellency had, however, received from a private friend an account of a conversation held by Count Schouvaloff, on which I might rely, but which was in no respect official, and from which it appeared that the Count cherished the belief that a Russian division would be left at Philippopolis after the period for evacuation under the Treaty had passed by. His Excellency continued by observing that any such proposition was entirely at variance with the policy of his own Government: as far as he was acquainted with it, he believed that they would resist it, and would count on the support of Her Majesty's Government in doing so.

I told Count Károlyi that the view of Her Majesty's Government entirely accorded with that which he had just explained, and that they did not under any circumstances contemplate acceding to a proposition for the maintenance of Russian troops in the province after the stipulated period of evacuation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 757.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 605.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 29, 1879.*

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires read to me on the 22nd instant a proposal from his Government that, in order to give to the Commission for the demarcation of the Bulgarian frontier the fullest possible advantage from the presence of a Russian escort, it would be desirable that the operations in the field should be brought to a close as soon as possible. M. Bartholomei mentioned the 13th July as the date which his Government propose to fix for the termination of the labours of the Commission.

I said, in reply, that Her Majesty's Government would gladly do what lay with them to hasten the proceedings of the Commissioners as much as possible. I feared, however, that they could scarcely finish their task within the period specified. Still, I said we should have no objection to that date being fixed upon, provided always that it was clearly understood that, whether finished or not by that time, the work of the Commission must be brought to a completion.

A summary of the above was sent to you in my telegram No. 41 of this day, and I requested you at the same time to inform General Hamley what had passed upon this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 758.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 607.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 29, 1879.*

YOU are already in possession of the Instruction No. 5 which I addressed to Colonel Sibornc on the 15th March last, authorizing him, under the conditions therein stated, to support M. Herbette's plan for repaying to the Porte the sums due to it on account of advances made to the European Danube Commission, and I have instructed you to-day in my telegram No. 42 to communicate to the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs the substance of that despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 759.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 63. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, April 11, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch, No. 54, Political, of the 20th March, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affair now informs me that Prince Labanoff, having already communicated to the Porte the permission of the Russian Government for his Excellency to represent Montenegro at Constantinople, Prince Nicholas is unable, at any rate for the moment, to adopt any other way of entering into diplomatic relations with Turkey.

Prince Nicholas trusts that Her Majesty's Government will not decline to use its influence to bring about between Turkey and Montenegro an understanding which is urgently required by their mutual interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 760.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 65. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, April 17, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship the departure this morning of Kiamil Pasha and his colleagues for Monastir viâ Durazzo.

I understand that the Imperial Commissioners will visit from Monastir all the most important towns of North-east Albania, as they have been ordered to make themselves acquainted with the present state of the populations there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 761.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 67. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, April 19, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch, No. 59, Political, of the 8th instant, I have now the honour to report to your Lordship that the Mufti of Taslidja has, on the invitation of Nasif Pasha, the Vali of Kossovo, arrived at Pristina, and that he has declined to accept the post of Cadi at Uscup which the Pasha has offered to him. Some of the self-appointed authorities of Jacova have also obeyed a summons to Prisrend sent them by order of the same Vali.

The understanding which has evidently always existed between Nasif Pasha, Hussein Pasha, and several other high functionaries and the leaders of the Albanian League, may end in serious consequences for the Turkish Government. Up to the present time the violence of the Mufti of Taslidja and Kadi Koranitza, and the threats of the Albanian League, have only had the effect of publishing the weakness of the Porte, but may, from one moment to another, be formally brought forward as proofs of its culpability and unfitness to even attempt the establishment of the reforms which have been promised by Treaty.

I trust that Kiamil Pasha, who has now left Scutari with orders to make a tour of inspection in all the districts of North-east Albania, will have the moral courage to carry out his task with the determination to benefit the Turkish Government, and not allow his labours to resolve themselves into a whitewashing of notorious offenders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 762.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 30.)

(No. 61. Political.)

My Lord, *Tirnovo, April* 18, 1879.

I HAD the honour to telegraph last night to your Lordship that I had just returned from Constantinople, whither I had gone for the week of Easter recess. Further, that the second and special National Assembly for the election of a Prince would, in accordance with a resolution passed by the notables, be exclusively composed of members returned by popular elections at the rate of three members for every ten thousand male voters.

The elections have already commenced, and the Assembly will meet on the 27th instant, and at once proceed to the election of a Prince. Meantime, the Assembly now sitting has almost completed its work of drawing up the Organic Law.

To the above I have now the honour to add, as explanation, that the constitution of the Electoral Assembly, which is absolutely popular, no members "of right" and no Government nominees being admitted, as also the nearness of the date fixed for its convocation, are by no means in accordance with the ideas of the Russian Provisional Government. This latter is accordingly now manœuvring for a delay, in hopes of thus regaining somewhat of its lost influence. I am doing my best to counterwork such manœuvres, and have little apprehension of their succeeding.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 763.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 30.)

(No. 62. Political.)

My Lord, *Tirnovo, April* 18, 1879.

I HAD the honour this day to telegraph to your Lordship that M. Zwiedinek, the Austrian Delegate, had, in reply to my anxious and personal inquiries addressed to him on the subject, declared in the most positive manner that my action as Delegate had been throughout one of perfectly good understanding with himself, and that I had not on any occasion met him with suspicion or distrust, or opposed or counteracted him in any way.

He further declared that whatever reports might have been made of a want of confidence or co-operation between us were absolutely without foundation. To which I added that we two were, and remained, on the best possible terms.

In explanation of the above I have now the honour to subjoin, that, having understood from some of your Lordship's despatches of the present year, as also by private but unquestionable intelligence, that I had been repeatedly accused of not acting in concert with, and even of opposing, the Representatives of the Austrian Government, or, in clearer phrase, the Austrian Delegate, with whom alone I have, or can possibly have, any real or official contact, and being myself ignorant of the grounds on which such an accusation could have been based, I resolved, after careful consultation with Her Majesty's Representative at Constantinople, and by his advice, to state the case to the Austrian Delegate, my colleague, in person, and to inquire of him what circumstances or incidents could have given rise to the evil report in question.

This I accordingly did to-day, without, however, indicating to him the precise sources whence I held my information. The sum of his answer, which was prefaced and accompanied by a declaration that he knew nothing of the accusations I alluded to, nor could imagine on what they were based, is given in the telegram here extended.

I am happy to be able to report that I have been able to avoid, as it appears, any personal annoyance or offence to my Austrian colleague in the treatment of this rather delicate matter, so that our relations, both personal and official, remain, to the best of my knowledge, unimpaired in every respect.

Trusting that the present statement may help to dissipate any vestige of doubt as to the cordiality and co-operation existing between my Austrian colleague and myself, I have, &c.

(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 764.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 30.)

(No. 63. Political.)

My Lord, *Tirnovo, April* 21, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a Protest, presented in the name of his Government by the Imperial Ottoman Commissary to the Imperial Russian Commissary, against the Articles 1, 2, 3, 19, 22-34 of the Organic Law adopted by the Assembly of Bulgarian notables at Tirnovo.

The motive for protest against the two first Articles is that, in the opinion of the Ottoman Government, they confer on Bulgarian Assemblies the power of changing the frontiers of the Principality. That for protest against the latter, the hereditary character which they assign to the Princely dignity itself.

Having already, in acccordance with your Lordship's instructions, supported the Protest of the Ottoman Commissary against Articles 1, 2, and 16, as mentioned in my despatch No. 40, Political, and having on that occasion received an answer identical with the one made to the Ottoman Commissary, being a disclaimer on the part of the Russian Commissary of all responsibility either for the programme itself, which had emanated from St. Petersburgh, or for the deliberations of the Assembly thereon, I have thought it best on the present occasion, in accordance with the unanimous opinion and practice of the Delegates, my colleagues, to refer the Protest now in question to Her Majesty's Government, as the Austrian, French, German, and Italian Delegates have done each to his own, without further steps, and awaiting the honour of ulterior instructions, of which my colleagues and myself have officially informed the Imperial Ottoman Commissary. I ought, perhaps, to mention that I had previously assisted that functionary in drawing up the Protest itself.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

Inclosure in No. 764.

Protest entered by the Ottoman Commissary against Articles 1, 2, 3, 19, 22, *and* 34 *of Organic Law.*

LE Soussigné, Commissaire de la Sublime Porte, a reçu l'ordre de son Gouvernement d'adresser la communication suivante à son Excellence le Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff, Commissaire de Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russes.

L'Assemblée Bulgare, convoquée à Tirnovo aux termes de l'Article IV du Traité de Berlin, pour élaborer le Statut Organique de la Principauté, a adopté, dans ses dernières séances, une série de dispositions au nombre desquelles se trouvent les Articles du Projet, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 19, et 22 à 34, inclusivement.

Les deux premiers de ces Articles confèrent aux Assemblées Bulgares le droit de changer les limites de la Principauté contrairement aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin qui fixé ces limites d'une manière définitive et irrévocable.

Les autres Articles susmentionnés déclarent que la Principauté est une monarchie héréditaire et règlent les conditions dans lesquelles doit s'exercer ce droit d'hérédité dans la famille du Prince. Le Soussigné à l'honneur de faire observer au nom de son Gouvernement à son Excellence le Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff que ces dispositions sont contraires à la teneur de l'Article III du Traité de Berlin, qui, après avoir établi que le Prince de Bulgarie sera librement élu par la population et confirmé par la Sublime Porte, prescrit qu'en cas de vacance de la dignité Princière, l'élection du nouveau Prince se fera aux mêmes conditions, et dans les mêmes formes.

En conséquence, le Soussigné, d'ordre de son Gouvernement, se voit dans la nécessité de protester formellement contre le vote par l'Assemblée Bulgare des Articles susmentionnés.

Le Soussigné, &c. (Signé) PERTEW.

Tirnovo, le $\frac{27 \text{ Mars}}{9 \text{ Avril}}$ 1879.

No. 765.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 30.)

(No. 64. Political.)

My Lord, *Tirnovo, April* 22, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report the further alterations made in the original programme for an Organic Law by the Assembly of Notables, during the 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th sittings, held on the 8th, 9th, 19th, and 21st of the present month respectively.

Article 73. Insert "free," *i.e.*, gratis.

Art. 74. Substitute "The press is free; no censorship can be instituted; no pledge can be demanded from authors, publishers, or printers; and should the author be a known resident in Bulgaria, the publisher or printer cannot be prosecuted on his account."

Art. 76. Add "and form Associations."

Art. 77. For its latter paragraph, substitute "Collective petitions are to be received."

Art. 79. The following alterations are made:—

(*a.*) The ordinary National Assembly is composed of Representatives of the nation elected by the people, in the proportion of one Member for every group of 10,000 souls of both sexes.

(*b.*) The Representatives are elected for three years.

(*c.*) All Bulgarian male citizens, having political rights, and over 21 years of age, are electors.

(*d.*) Any Bulgarian citizen over 30 years of age, and able to read and write in Bulgarian, is eligible as Representative.

Art. 81. Is altered as follows:—

"On the opening of the National Assembly the oldest member presides, for the purpose of the election of the Bureau."

Art. 99. Added: "The Assembly appoints Committees of Inquiry into matters regarding administration."

Arts. 101 and 102. For these two substitute the following, as single Article:—"The initiative in legislation belongs alike to the Prince and the Assembly. Any Member of the Assembly may introduce a Bill, if supported by a fourth of the Members present in the House."

Art. 118. The blank left in the programme for the possible amount of an extraordinary loan is filled up at 1,000,000 fr.

Art. 119. The blank left for extraordinary expenditure is filled up at 300,000 fr.

Art. 120. The blank left for the ordinary sessions of the National Assembly is filled up "two months: from the 15th October to the 15th December."

Art. 130. The period mentioned of four months is contracted to two, and that of six to four.

Art. 137. The Great National Assembly is formed by the Ordinary, with a double number of Members similarly elected.

Art. 138. The Presidency is assumed by the oldest Member present till the formation of a Bureau.

Art. 141. Council of State eliminated.

Arts. 142-147 inclusive, similarly cancelled.

Art. 148. Duties of the Council of State. Of these—

Nos. 1 and 2 cancelled.

Nos. 3, 4, 5, and 6 to be recorded in the Protocols as belonging to the Court of Cassation or Appeal.

Nos. 7 and 8 cancelled.

Nos. 9 and 10 to be inserted among the duties of the Ministerial Council.

No. 11 to be inserted, Chapter XX, Article 134, among the duties of the Great National Assembly.

Art. 156. The blank left regarding the number of Members requisite for the motion for the trial of a Minister filled in at "one-fourth."

Art. 161. Clause 5, that is, a distinct Ministry for Public Works and Agriculture, cancelled.

Art. 170. Cancelled.

The revision of the Programme for an Organic Law is thus complete. In the remaining and concluding sittings, two, or at most three, in number, the Protocols of sittings 15 to 20 inclusive, and the entire revised Organic Law or Constitution, will be

read before the Assembly, which will afterwards be formally closed by the Imperial Russian Commissioner.

It is to be noted that the Exarch, bishops, and most of the Conservative or pro-Russian party, have latterly absented themselves from the meetings, and that the general feeling in Russian political circles is one of considerable dissatisfaction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 766.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 30.)

(No. 65. Political.)

My Lord, *Tirnovo, April* 23, 1879.

I HAD the honour to telegraph last night to your Lordship that the Assembly of Notables had completed their revision of the programme of Organic Law, and would be itself closed by the end of the present week. Also, that the second and larger Assembly for the election of a Prince will be opened after a very short interval, when the election of Prince Battenberg may be considered as certain.

It is to be noted that, although the democratic and independent tendencies of the Bulgarians have led them in their present Assembly so far to modify and even cancel on several important points the Russian Constitutional Programme, and to substitute for it one of a singularly liberal character; and though the Russian Administration as such has lost much of its popularity during the last few months, and is even regarded with dislike, yet the personal influence of two individual Russians, namely, General Ignatieff and Prince Dondoukoff, has, owing to various circumstances easy to understand and appreciate, little diminished; and if prolonged presence has in some, though not a very substantial, degree damaged the latter, a similar absence has, perhaps, equally advantaged the former. Besides, in spite of all local and individual grievances, a general feeling of gratitude for favours received, not without anticipation of more to come, still inclines the mass of the people, and particularly the peasants, towards Russia and the Russians.

Hence, were it not for the real or supposed Declaration of the Czar, that he will not permit any subject of his to accept the Bulgarian Princedom, the candidature would probably lie between Ignatieff and Dondoukoff, with slight odds in favour of the former. Many again, if perfectly sure that Prince Dondoukoff would not or could not accept the dignity in question, would offer it to him as a testimonial of regard, and just to give him the honour of a refusal. A foolish measure, but not impossible, nor even, I have cause to fear, improbable.

Setting, however, the two above-mentioned persons aside, and setting also aside as out of the question any Servian, Montenegrin, or Wallachian candidate, none of whom even Russian influence could, I believe, force on Bulgaria, it may safely be said that, among all and any West European possible candidates, the Russian nominee, who is still, to all appearance, Prince Battenberg, will carry the day. The Assembly for the election will, it is believed, be convoked on the 27th instant, and its work will be over within the week.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 767.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 30.)

(No. 66. Political.)

My Lord, *Tirnovo, April* 23, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that the news which daily arrives here from the southern and western frontiers of this Principality is of a very disquieting character.

With what regards the ever-increasing agitation in Eastern Roumelia, the military or quasi-military preparations there, and the general disposition to oppose all measures tending towards the accomplishment of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin for that province, your Lordship is doubtless well acquainted; and I only mention them because, as I have had the honour of stating before, disturbances in the Thracian territory cannot fail to react disastrously on the neighbouring and closely-connected State of Bulgaria.

But, in addition to this, that part of the Bulgarian frontier which touches Macedonia is in a constant state of trouble, and often, it is but too credibly reported, of actual bloodshed. The inhabitants of the town and district of Juma'a, many thousands in number, are prepared to resist by force the retrocession of their territory to Turkish rule; and the Mahommedan occupants of a large portion of the Pianitza district, near Kustendil, which has been provisionally occupied by the Turks, as Juma'a by the Russians, are not more quietly disposed on their side. Frequent skirmishing is reported from that quarter. So much for the southern frontier.

On the western, or Servian, the disquiet is hardly less. With or without Russian connivance, though there is strong reason to suspect the former, the Servians have, it is stated, occupied about twenty Bulgarian villages in the districts of Bresnik and Trin, contrary to the presumed demarcation of the Berlin Treaty, and have lately extended their encroachments almost up to Radomir itself, at a short day's journey from Sofia; besides, it is said, prompting the Bulgarian peasants of the adjoining villages to disaffection, in the view of ultimate Servian annexation.

This state of things naturally tends to disturb seriously the equilibrium of Bulgaria itself. Nor can any thorough and effective remedies be applied till the uncertainty now existing as to the exact course of the southern and western Bulgarian frontier lines is removed by the presence and the work of the Commission for the frontier delimitation, the delay of which is much to be regretted, as having already given rise to serious inconveniences, and being likely, if prolonged, to occasion yet more and worse.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 768.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 28.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, April 29, 1879.*

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram No. 9 of yesterday, Prince Bismarck has no objection to the proposal that the Commission should accompany Aleko Pasha in order to advise him.

No. 769.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tirnovo, April 29, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to request your Lordship's permission to take Constantinople on my return from Tirnovo to Sofia, in order to meet my wife and children, who are just arrived at that capital; the delay will be very short and will not matter, as the two Commissioners and the Delegates are all going on separate little trips, and will not reunite at Sofia for a fortnight at least.

No. 770.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 29, 1879.*

FOUNDING myself on Wolff's recent telegrams, I remonstrated to-day against the countenance still shown to gymnastic societies and furnishing of artillery to Roumeliotes, mentioning that when, on a former occasion, I had spoken to M. de Giers about Roumeliotes being given arms, M. de Giers admitted they had been given muskets for defence of their homes, but that Russian Government had expressly abstained from giving them artillery, in order that they might not be in a position to revolt.

Jomini assured me in reply that the Emperor had positively ordered dissolution of the gymnastic societies, and admitted that the furnishing of artillery was not justifiable.

No. 771.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 62.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 29, 1879.*

IN reference to my inquiry as to whether the Commission was to return with Aleko, Jomini informed me that Labanoff had recommended that Aleko should enter the province alone, and be inducted under Russian auspices. They evidently want Russian administration to be continued with Aleko as its head. Alluding to Wolff's reports, I have said that, with such proofs of disobedience to the Emperor and of bad faith on the part of local administration in province coming daily to hand, I did not think European Governments would agree to allow Russian administration to continue beyond term authorized by the Treaty. It is a matter which will have to be seriously considered from different points of view.

No. 772.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 30.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, April 30, 1879.*

UNDER present circumstances I should feel obliged to your Lordship for allowing me to proceed home for one month, as my absence from my post until new Chambers commence to legistate will not only cause no inconvenience, but may appear even desirable.

No. 773.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 385.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 30, 1879.*

I SENT following to Consul Trotter:—

"The Commission of Inquiry, composed of Yussuf Pasha and Serkis Effendi Agabikian, with his brother as Procurator-General, is to begin its labours at once at Erzeroum, where you should proceed to meet it. Ambassador returns on the 5th and will send you full instructions."

No. 774.

Mr. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 386.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 30, 1879.*

PORTE wishes to know where Major Wilson and his Vice-Consuls are to reside, and whether all Consuls and Vice-Consuls in Asia Minor are to be under him. It makes difficulties about giving exequaturs until it is informed upon these points. Perhaps travelling Firmans would be sufficient for the present if the residences are not designated.

No. 775.

General Hamley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic) *Constantinople, April 30, 1879.*

RUSSIAN Commissioner concurs in the abandonment of his opposition, only desiring to substitute a proposition for that of telegram No. 6, which, being substantially the same, was unanimously accepted.

Also unanimously agreed that vote of majority shall decide all points in future.

Commission intends to leave for frontier 12th May.

No. 776.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 30.)

(No. 162. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 30, 1879.

IN the Memorandum I gave to the Sultan I recommended that Statute, *mutatis mutandis*, should be at once applied to European provinces. This view is approved by the Grand Vizier and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Greek Patriarch, whom I saw yesterday, says that it is the only means of preserving the provinces to the Empire.

No. 777.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 30, 1879, 3·40 P.M.

I HAVE explained views of Her Majesty's Government to Italian Chargé d'Affaires. We shall offer mediation in terms of the Treaty, but we do not quite understand how a conference is to act. We doubt the expediency of that portion of the French suggestion.

No. 778.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Malet.

(No. 43.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 30, 1879, 7 P.M.

YOURS 386. Colonel Wilson will probably reside at Siwas. Five Vice-Consuls will be stationed at the chief towns of the provinces, and will be under Wilson's orders, but the other Consular officers in Asia Minor will not be under him.

Urge immediate issue of exequaturs.

No. 779.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Captain Sale.

(No. 8.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 30, 1879.

I HAVE to inform you that Lieutenant Vincent H. Penalver Caillard, of the Royal Engineers, has been appointed to assist you in your duties as Her Majesty's Commissioner for the demarcation of the frontier of Montenegro.

Lieutenant Caillard, while employed on the work of the Commission, will receive the regimental pay and allowances ordinarily issued to officers of the Royal Engineers when travelling abroad, and his actual travelling expenses will be reimbursed to him. You are authorized to draw on the War Department for these purposes as may be necessary, and to include the charges in your accounts.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 780.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 239.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, April* 30, 1879.

THE German Chargé d'Affaires communicated to me that his Government had received the Circular of the French Government with respect to the application of mediation under the XXIVth Article of the Treaty, and that the German Government had expressed their assent thereto.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 781.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 233.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 30, 1879.

THE Italian Chargé d'Affaires has informed me that his Government had received the Circular of the French Government with respect to mediation, under the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, in the affairs of Greece, and asked me what course Her Majesty's Government intended to take with respect to it. I said that there could be very little doubt that Her Majesty's Government would accept the proposal to proffer their mediation, in accordance with the language of the Treaty, but that there was some doubt as to the proposal of the French Government that that mediation should operate through a Conference of the Ambassadors.

The Treaty appeared to me to contemplate the separate though simultaneous mediation of the various Powers, and it was a matter for consideration whether it would not be more prudent to adhere to the precise language of the Treaty in that respect.

A Conference of Ambassadors might raise questions as to the authority of a majority over a minority, which in such matters it might be difficult to solve.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.